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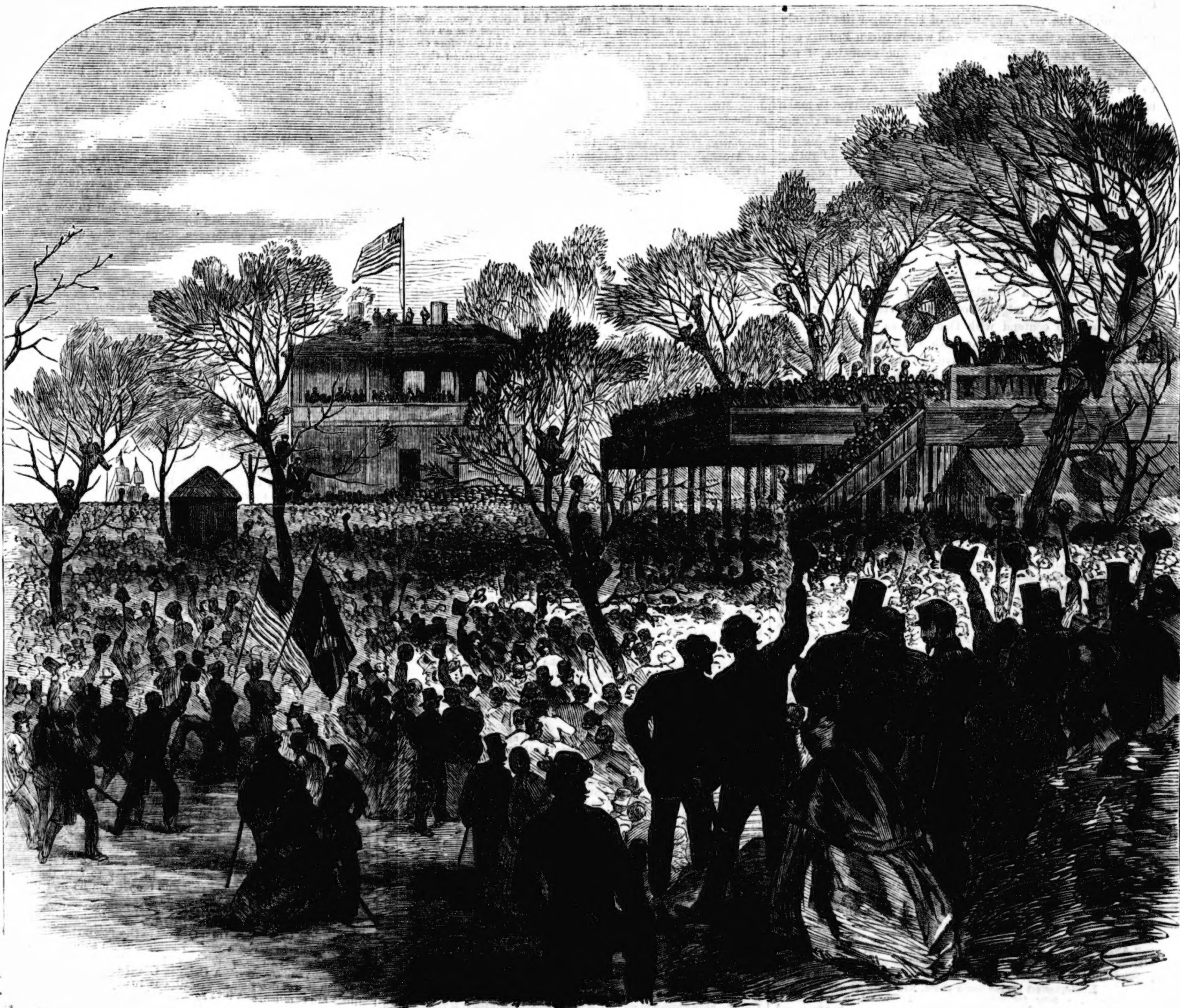
TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE chances of Earl Russell's Reform Bill becoming law seem constantly on the decrease. If it fail, however, that result will be due to the opposition, not of extreme Liberals—who do not think the bill goes far enough; nor of Conservatives, for whom it goes too far—but of a certain number of independent moderate Liberals, who argue that, in its present form, the measure would do more harm than good, and that it would not secure the ends which its authors propose to themselves. It would increase the bribable class in small boroughs without increasing it to anything like such an extent as to make the practice of bribery an impossibility. To purify our electoral body is a much more important object than to extend it; and it is the most vulgar fallacy in the world to imagine that Parliamentary reform and reduction of the suffrage are synonymous terms, as numbers of persons

seem really to believe. If it is uncertain whether the general character of the electoral body would be improved by the admission of £6 or £7 householders—and so vague are the convictions of the Government on this subject that we need not be astonished if they should ultimately propose to fix the magic sum at £6 10s.—it is at least sure that the disfranchisement of certain notoriously corrupt boroughs would be an unmixed good. Reformers who are, above all, in favour of a redistribution of seats, as a measure of primary importance by which any project for lowering the franchise ought to be accompanied or preceded, are generally inclined to introduce the Scotch system of borough representation, by which several contiguous small boroughs are grouped together and return one member to Parliament between them. By this system the legitimate expenditure of a candidate is increased, but only to a trifling extent. On the other hand,

bribery, over such an extended and varied area, is practically impossible.

Since the failure of the negotiations in favour of Denmark in 1864, following closely on the failure of the negotiations in favour of Poland in 1863, the great majority of Englishmen, and the English Parliament itself, have felt a sort of disgust for questions of foreign policy. Indeed, so great was the reaction when it was found how unavailing mere protests were in the face of armed force that many writers and speakers hastened to proclaim that the existence of England as a European Power was at an end. In future, it was said, we should not in any way interfere in the affairs of the Continent. Our neighbours might settle their differences as they pleased. England would not move either in support of treaties or for the sake of the balance of power, or in any other cause except that of self-defence. This was an impossible and also an immoral



FENIAN MONSTER MEETING AT JONES'S WOOD, NEW YORK.

view; for the nations of Europe form a society which must be guided by certain principles and regulated by certain laws; and no one member of this society has either the right or the power to separate itself from the others with whom it is bound up by historical associations, by common commercial interests, and by the general interests of civilisation. It was either folly or mere cynicism to say that henceforth we should not mix ourselves up directly or indirectly with the quarrels of our European brethren; and already it is said, and we hope with truth, that her Majesty's Government is interposing its good offices with the view of preventing the threatened war between Austria and Prussia. Such a war would be a terrible misfortune for all Europe; and, to say that it would not concern England, is as absurd as it would be to maintain that it does not matter to a private Englishman whether the houses of his neighbours, and, indeed, the greater part of the street in which he lives, catches fire or not.

Who would have thought three years ago, when it was the fashion to ridicule the Schleswig-Holstein question as one of no importance, that, after causing a second severe war between Denmark and the two great German Powers, it would lead to a very serious dispute, accompanied already by hostile demonstrations of the most unmistakable kind, between the two great German Powers themselves? Some writers, who are certainly very easily gratified, profess to derive much satisfaction from the quarrel that has now taken place between Denmark's despoilers; and if the Prussian and Austrian Cabinets could fight it out between them, in some limited arena, the spectacle of dissension between the rival thieves would be interesting and edifying enough. But, unfortunately, if war were once to break out in the centre of Europe, it could not fail to spread in every direction. Matters have already gone so far that the manner in which Austria has disposed her forces is perfectly well known, and is fully described in the letters of the best-informed English correspondents at Vienna; and no one can be surprised to hear that she is preparing for an attack at Venetia. Whatever side Russia and France might take, it is quite certain that Italy would not see Austria involved in a great war without striking a blow for Venice. Nor is it to be expected that France would look on during a general conflagration in Germany and not attempt to get something out of the fire for herself.

Indeed, in the very magnitude of the danger lies the only ground for hope that the threatened war between Prussia and Austria will not take place, and that some amicable, if not absolutely equitable, arrangement will be made in reference to the Schleswig-Holstein booty. But Austria seems determined not to give in, and she has evidently resolved to make at least a show of resistance. The real peril of the existing situation consists in this: that both Prussia and Austria are already, so to say, stripped and in fighting attitude. Of course, it is quite possible all the same that no blow may be struck, and there can be no doubt but that each of the contending parties is speculating on the unwillingness of the other to fight. This is a very hazardous game for both; but Austria, with one of the finest armies in Europe, is naturally not inclined to yield to mere threats, while Prussia considers that if threatened up to a certain point Austria must yield. Prussia might or might not, in a struggle for the duchies, have to contend with Denmark as well as Austria. Austria once involved in war with Prussia, on no matter what question, would certainly have to fight Italy; and would have to accede to any terms that might be dictated to her by her Hungarian subjects in order to avoid the additional danger of an insurrection in Hungary.

THE FENIANS IN AMERICA.

A CORRESPONDENT gives the following account of the recent doings of the Fenians in America, which will be read with interest in connection with the Engraving we this week publish of the great mass meeting at Jones's Wood, New York:—

"It was natural to suppose that the news of the sudden suspension of the privilege of Habeas Corpus in Ireland would create a commotion among the American branch of the Fenian Brotherhood. The news arrived in America on the 2nd of March, and ever since the Fenians of all shades of opinion have been lashing themselves into a furious excitement. They have held mass meetings in all parts of the country and denounced the law; but, being 3000 miles away from Ireland, it is difficult to see what good these denunciations will do. They have talked in loud tones of sending an army to invade Canada or Ireland, but the United States Government has given their leaders fair warning that Fenianism may talk as fiercely as it chooses, but the moment it attempts any act in violation of American neutrality, that moment both O'Mahony and the senate will be clapped in goal and the order broken up by military force. Upon no point of policy is the American Government more determined than that American soil shall not be used as a rendezvous either for an invasion of Canada or of Ireland. The Secretary of State has informed the British Minister of this; and a Fenian delegation, sent to Washington to urge the President to espouse the cause of American Fenian emissaries captured in Ireland, was told in plain language that those agents deserved their fate, and that the brotherhood in America might take fair warning by them—the first attempt at a violation of the law in the United States would be followed by the arrest and punishment of the Fenian leaders. These plain expressions of opinion have tied the hands of O'Mahony and Company; but, nothing daunted, they made the sudden outburst of feeling among the Irish an excuse for another appeal for 'funds.' For a year past the dupes of this outrageous swindle have had money wrung from them at every change of fortune in Ireland; but in their praise it must be said that, so incredulous have they now become, that to the most heartrending appeals they turn a deaf ear. All the eloquence of the loan agents is wasted, for very few of the Fenians subscribe to the bonds; they have no notion of giving their hard-earned money to support gorgeous establishments for head centres in marble palaces in New York.

"Anxious for a chance to appear in a new character before an almost nameless public, O'Mahony availed himself of the intelligence from Ireland to issue the following fierce proclamation:—

Head-quarters Fenian Brotherhood, New York, March 2, 1866.
Brothers,—The hour for action has arrived. The Habeas Corpus is suspended in Ireland. Our brothers are being arrested by hundreds and thrown into prison. Call your circles together immediately; send us all

the aid in your power at once; and in God's name let us start for our destination. Aid, brothers; help for God and Ireland.
God save the Queen.

JOHN O'MAHONY.

"Frenzied telegrams communicated this indirect appeal for cash to all parts of the country, and it was quickly followed by a more direct request for money. A financial proclamation issued the same day by the Fenian 'Secretary of Civil Affairs,' would have been worthy of Jay Cooke, the American loan agent in the darkest days of our late war. Says the 'Civil Secretary':—

Head-quarters, Department of Civil Affairs.
Brothers,—The Habeas Corpus Act is suspended in Ireland. Our compatriots are thus thrown into the field, and are doubtless fighting, as God gives them strength, at this moment. Meet. Remember your promises, and be prompt in your assistance. The military department of the brotherhood will take charge of your military contributions, and mobilise them. The financial department will strain every nerve to supply the brave men in the "gap." Success depends upon immediate action. Let every man understand his duty.
PATRICK J. DOWLING, Secretary.

"These stirring proclamations, although they have brought out very little money, have produced a shoal of pronouncements from every Fenian dignitary in the land. There have been no end to the pledges and resolves, to the mass meetings and fierce speeches, but the sinews of war are very sparingly offered. The 'Grand Military Council' of the O'Mahony branch, after laborious session at New York, prepared a lengthy address, in which they 'earnestly call upon every Fenian to purchase at least a 20-dollar bond of the Irish Republic.' The mass meetings, which have been very noisy and uproarious, have made every possible suggestion which will avoid any risk of facing English bayonets. A meeting at Washington resolved that British Columbia should be seized, and a harbour for privateers be established on the Pacific coast. At Pittsburgh a similar meeting divulged General Sweeny's 'plan,' which he has made so much fuss in hatching—that Canada be attacked about the middle of March with a small force, while the main body seizes New Brunswick. To support this absurd scheme, the Fenian senate at Pittsburgh, with 8000 dols. in their treasury, appropriated 1,000,000 dols.; and the brave senators and their friends, to meet the first draught, got up a subscription list for 79,000 dols., to be paid when the expedition starts. A Fenian mass meeting at New Haven, after passing bloody resolutions, enforced them by the subscription of 'several hundred dollars in cash,' a welcome announcement to the itching palm of O'Mahony. The great meeting of all, however, was held on Sunday, March 4, at Jones's Wood, a lager-beer garden in the suburbs of New York. The assembled masses were harangued from four stands, an immense amount of liquor was consumed, portions of Ireland were conquered by other portions until the police came to the rescue, fierce resolutions were passed, and golden promises made; but the meeting broke up without any result. The strong arm of the American Government, there as at all other places, held the restless brotherhood and prevented them from open violations of the law."

Another correspondent says that:—"The speakers urgently appealed for subscriptions to the bonds, for the sale of which booths were erected on the ground. O'Mahony announced that fighting had commenced in Ireland, and asked for sufficient funds to enable an expedition to leave America for Ireland in six weeks. Captain McCafferty, an envoy from Stephens, declared that in Ireland the Fenians had ready for battle a disciplined army of 300,000 men—all they required was arms. The meeting passed resolutions that as American citizens they had assembled to express sympathy with, and were determined to bestow material aid upon, a people desiring to be free. The suspension of the Habeas Corpus was an acknowledgment that Ireland was in a state of war, and therefore entitled by all the rules of civilised warfare to belligerent rights; the meeting therefore called upon their Government at Washington without delay to acknowledge Ireland as a belligerent. The meeting resolved that all funds should be immediately remitted to John Mitchell, Paris. Great enthusiasm prevailed, and 25,000 dols. of bonds were sold. The Catholic Archbishop of New York issued a circular urging upon his congregation to absent themselves from the Jones's Wood gathering. In a sermon preached on Sunday last the Archbishop regretted that the Catholics had made an exception in their history by closing their ears to their clergy upon the subject of Fenianism. He appealed to them to withdraw from the movement, which had already gone too far, and said that the meeting at Jones's Wood was an open profanation of the Sabbath. Captain McCafferty had a long interview with President Johnson on Saturday. At a meeting of Fenian naval men, held at Chicago, it was reported that Fenian vessels were fitting out at that city. A large demonstration was made yesterday at Philadelphia, when McCafferty made a speech in which he stated that, were the first blow to be struck in the heart of England, it would be twenty times more severe than in Ireland, and that Stephens was the military organiser in Europe."

LOVE ADVENTURES OF A FOREIGN NOBLEMAN.—A most laughable scene recently occurred at Dewbury station, on the London and North-Western Railway. For some time past Alexander De St. Alban, who styled himself a Count, has been carrying on business in the town as a merchant, but has resided in Leeds. About two months ago he became enamoured of a young woman of some personal attractions, who is engaged in the first-class refreshment-rooms at the station. The Count's overtures were at first received coldly, but as the merchant continued his importunities, and was constant in his visits to the refreshment-rooms, the young woman was induced to look more favourably upon him, but at the same time did not encourage his visits. Having communicated with her friends, it was found upon inquiry that the Count was a married man, and it was resolved that if the fellow continued his visits any longer his deceptive and faithless conduct should be exposed, and he himself be punished. Learning a few days ago that the girl was about leaving her situation, the faithless nobleman called at the refreshment-rooms, and asked his love to go with him to Leeds, where he promised to find her a comfortable home. Believing that he had obtained the fair one's sanction to the arrangement, the foreigner resolved to carry her off on Wednesday night week. Accordingly, he went to the station, but as the lady did not make her appearance, the Count contented himself with waiting in the first-class room at the station. Two trains for Leeds arrived at and departed from the station, but the Count refused to proceed. In doubt as to the sincerity of the girl, he visited every department of the station in search of her, and made many anxious inquiries as to her whereabouts. He was assailed with jeers by those who were in the secret, and was ultimately compelled to seek refuge from his tormentors in the ladies' waiting-room, resolving to proceed to Leeds by the next train. It ought to be stated that the Count arranged with his fair one that, in order to allay all suspicions, she should take a second-class ticket to the first station, and then she should change carriages and join him in a first-class compartment—for, as became the dignity of a nobleman, he always travelled first-class. A few minutes before the arrival of the 7.57 p.m. north train the station bell was sounded as a ruse, and the Count issued from his hiding-place, but no sooner had he reached the platform than a bowl full of flour was thrown upon him by the girl he had deceived. Before he had time to recover himself this was supplemented by a pailful of flour and water—a compound which gave the Count a truly foreign appearance. A good deal of excitement prevailed, but the Count managed to reach the train, and thus escaped further annoyance.

THE ARISTOCRACY OF CUBA.—In personal appearance, the dons and hidalgos of Cuba are naturally assimilated to their ancestors of old Spain; while the character of the general population is extremely varied, both as to physical features and costume—circumstances which add greatly to the picturesque effect of the whole scene—Spanish, French, American, Italian, Dutch, African, creole, Indian, Chinese, presenting every shade of colour and variety of countenance that can be imagined. These, with their diversified costumes, combine to form a picture of living mortality at Havana which, to the same extent and with equal power of expression, is not, perhaps, equalled in any other city in the world, not even excepting New Orleans. The different styles of physiognomy among the natives of old Spain are also very evident in the population of the city. One has refined features, an oval countenance, a proud and often a gloomy expression—this distinguishes those of Castilian descent. Another has a round countenance, flat, broad features, and a jovial but plebeian expression—this marks the Catalonian. The former is spare in form; the latter stout. The Castilian is generally found among Government officials; the Catalonian among merchants and tradespeople.

REPRESENTATION OF WIGAN.—A vacancy has been caused in the representation of Wigan by the resignation of Major-General Lindsay, the Conservative member, the reason assigned for taking this step being that his military duties in Canada, where he is at present in command, render it impossible that he can discharge his duty to his constituents. The gallant General had, with a brief interval, represented Wigan since 1845. Mr. Ekersley, a banker, has been nominated by the Conservatives, while the Liberals have decided to support Mr. Lancaster, the principal proprietor in the Wigan Coal and Iron Company.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

At Paris the public interest in the debate on the address has, for the moment, given place to the apprehension of hostilities between Austria and Prussia. The interests of the two great German Powers are so clearly opposed to war that the public incline to the opinion that some other means will be found of arranging their quarrel; but the Bourse has become alarmed, and a great fall has taken place in almost all securities. A telegram from Vienna states that Prussia is said to have made a peaceful communication to Austria, and that the Gastein Convention will be adhered to.

The address was adopted, on Tuesday, in the Corps Législatif, by 251 votes to seventeen. An attempt to have the press laws altered, so that newspapers might be dealt with by the ordinary courts instead of by the Government, was negatived by 188 to sixty-five votes.

SPAIN.

The state of siege has been raised in New Castile. The Congress has passed the bill granting pensions to the sons of the deceased Infante Don Francisco d'Assis.

HUNGARY.

The Hungarian Diet has determined to appoint deputies to confer with the Croatian deputies. The Hungarians are, however, instructed to defend the integrity of the Hungarian Crown, not to consent to the separation of the provinces pertaining thereto, and to submit the resolutions at which they may arrive to the Diet.

In the Lower House the draught of the address in reply to the Imperial rescript was again discussed on the 19th inst. After a speech from M. Bastal, who opposed the address, a division took place, when all the deputies present, including M. Bastal, voted in favour of the draught of the address, which was then sent to the Upper House.

ROUMANIA.

The Conference on the Danubian Principalities held its second sitting at Paris on Wednesday. It is stated that, should the great Powers urge such a course, the Porte is willing to sanction again exceptionally the union of the Principalities under a native Hospodar. The greatest order prevails throughout Moldavia.

It is said that delegates have arrived at Vienna from Roumania to ask the assistance of Austria in procuring the nomination of a foreign Prince Hospodar for Roumania. A similar mission is said to have left Bucharest for London.

The organisation of the National Guard is being proceeded with. The subscriptions to the new loan are coming in rapidly. Some delay has, however, occurred in the printing of the bonds.

Both Chambers were prorogued on the 17th inst. until the 5th of April next. The Government declared that it wished the legislative bodies to remain intact, in order to affirm the unity of purpose existing between the Government and the nation, and to maintain before Europe the expressed wishes of the people, so long as the Conference at Paris on the subject of the Principalities should continue its sittings.

THE UNITED STATES.

Our intelligence from New York, by telegraph, is to the 10th inst. The Constitutional amendment, basing the representation on the number of the population, exclusive of negroes not permitted to vote, had been defeated in the Senate. Several amendments granting the suffrage to the negroes had also been defeated. Mr. Doolittle offered a fresh amendment, basing the representation on the number of voters.

The Reconstruction Committee of the House of Representatives had reported a resolution conditionally agreeing to declare Tennessee as one of the United States. Tennessee is to maintain her existing Constitution, exclude rebels from suffrage and office for a certain time, to ignore the rebel debt, and to make no payment for emancipated slaves. These conditions are to be ratified by the Tennessee Legislature. The resolution had been referred back to the Committee, several members objecting that it did not sufficiently guarantee fidelity to the Union and protection to freedmen. The minority of the Committee had presented a report for the immediate admission of the Tennessee members. The House of Representatives had recommitted the Civil Rights Bill to the Judiciary Committee. The House had adopted an amendment to the bill regulating the trade with Canada, increasing the duties on timber and fish, and making the duty on coal 1 dol. 20c per ton. A resolution had been introduced in the Committee on Foreign Affairs for the United States Government to guarantee a Mexican Republican Loan of 50,000,000 dols.

A delegation from Kentucky had visited President Johnson and thanked him for his veto on the Freedmen's Bureau Bill. The President, in reply, said that the present was a most critical juncture in the affairs of the nation, scarcely less so than when an armed and organised force sought to overthrow the Government. "To attack or attempt to disrupt the Government by an armed combination is," he said, "no more dangerous to the life of a nation than to attempt to revolutionise or modernise it by the disregard or destruction of the safeguards thrown around the people's liberties in the Constitution. Our stand has been taken, our course marked out, and we shall take no backward step in this matter. By administering government in conformity with the Constitution it is to be hoped that the irregularities and annoyances to which the people have been subjected will before long be remedied."

The Fenian excitement continued throughout the country. In addressing a meeting at Williamsburg, Roberts stated that 30,000 men would shortly be marched across the Canadian borders. All that was wanted to make the movement successful was money. The *New York World* publishes details of an elaborate military plan for the capture of Canada, including the seizure of the Grand Trunk Railroad, by Sweeny with 30,000 men. It also asserts that the Fenians have numerous vessels fitting out at Chicago, Buffalo, Bay City, and Cleveland, which will simultaneously go to the assistance of the land forces. Among the earliest aggressive operations would be, it is added, the overhauling of the British mail-steamer. At a Fenian meeting held in Washington Senator McDougal subscribed his horse and sword to the Fenian cause. Senator Wright also spoke in favour of the movement. The Catholic Archbishop of New York had issued a circular urging upon his congregation to absent themselves from the Jones's Wood gathering. In a sermon he had preached the Archbishop regretted that the Catholics had made an exception in their history by closing their ears to their clergy upon the subject of Fenianism. He appealed to them to withdraw from the movement, which had already gone too far, and said that the meeting at Jones's Wood was an open profanation of the Sabbath.

SOUTH AMERICA.

A great land battle had been fought between the Argentine and Paraguayan forces, attended with great loss on both sides. Neither side, however, was able to claim the victory.

Advices from Panama state that the Spanish Commodore Nunez had proposed an armistice to Chili, stipulating, however, for the return of the captured vessel (the Covadonga) and the Spanish prisoners, and the appointment of peace commissioners. These propositions were refused by Chili, and Nunez then proposed that the Chilean Minister for Foreign Affairs should go on board the Spanish flagship to make some arrangement. In reply to this, the Chilean Government informed Nunez that any proposition he had to make would be received at the Chilean capital.

CANADA.

According to advices from Quebec to the 9th inst. great excitement prevails in Canada on the subject of an anticipated Fenian invasion, and extensive military preparations are being made throughout the country. A Cabinet Council was held on the 7th, at which it was determined to call out 10,000 volunteers. All the militia are enrolled, and it is expected that they will be called out immediately. The people throughout Canada are promptly and

enthusiastically responding to the Government calls. Government has seized the Montreal telegraph line.

NEW ZEALAND.

A telegram dated Wellington, Feb. 13, announces further successes of the Imperial and colonial forces under General Chute over the insurgent natives in New Zealand, by which confidence in the future security of the country has been fully restored. The customs revenue was flourishing, and the yield of gold increasing.

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

WARLIKE rumours come from Germany. Austria and Prussia, it is said, are both arming and massing troops with a view to an encounter on the subject of the Elbe duchies, wrested from Denmark. The subjoined telegram from Vienna comes through Reuter's agency:—

It is stated here, upon good authority, that a circular has been forwarded to the Imperial agents at the Courts of the non-German Powers with special instructions to communicate it to the various Governments. The Minister considers the present situation of affairs suitable to call the attention of the Powers to the attitude taken up by Austria in the duchies question from May, 1864, to the present time. A decisive declaration is said to follow that the Austrian Government will never consent to the annexation of the duchies to Prussia. Adhering to previous obligations, Austria will neither take nor suffer forcible measures upon her territory, and if necessary will even declare war against Prussia, provided the latter Power openly violates Austrian rights, and thus challenges opposition. In this case, however, the entire responsibility for the breach of the peace of Europe must rest with the State by which it is provoked.

The recent councils of war are said to have shown that an army of 460,000 men can be placed in the field at very short notice, independently of a force of 100,000 men, which is to remain in Italy. Arms, clothing, and military equipment of all descriptions are reported to be already provided, as well as a sufficient number of horses. The only deficiency is in the article of ready money. The financial question, indeed, has formed the chief subject of serious discussion in the councils. It is believed to have been determined that the bank shall in no case be interfered with, further than, in the event of war, payment of the instalments due this year from the Government to that institution being for a time suspended. A fresh emission of paper—Treasury notes or war bonds—would, however, take place to meet current expenditure.

Part of the garrison of Pesth has already reached Brinn, and is going on to Prague. Two batteries of horse artillery and two Uhlan regiments stationed at Temesvar have received the route to Vienna; they will reach here in the course of the week and at once be sent northwards, from which it is concluded that the Government does not consider it necessary to place a corps of observation upon the Moldavian frontier. Transylvania is being almost denuded of troops, the greater part of the cavalry regiments in that province marching on to Bohemia.

It is believed to have been decided in a council of Ministers to keep strictly upon the defensive, avoiding all provocations, and leaving the initiative to Prussia. Vice-Admiral Tegenhoff has been summoned here, and was received in special audience by the Emperor yesterday. The Admiral was to have commanded the Asiatic expedition, but that enterprise has been postponed until the autumn, owing to the threatening aspect of affairs. In case of a collision with Prussia, it is reported that he will command the Austrian fleet in the Baltic.

Several Generals have arrived from Hungary, to take instructions as to the movement of troops; and negotiations are in progress with the Credit Institution for supplies of flour and forage. Should war prove unavoidable, the convocation of the Reichsrath is expected.

The Berlin *Neue Preussische (Kreuz) Zeitung* of the 19th publishes the following, believed to be from an official source:—

We have to state a serious fact. Austria and Saxony are arming; we have hitherto not done so. Where armaments are entered upon in such critical situations the full weight of responsibility falls upon those who begin them. They force the opposite party to counter-armament. The first step is ominous, and it has been taken. Austria is calling in her furthest men and beginning to concentrate troops in Bohemia and Galicia. Saxony, independently of accelerating the recruitment, has secretly ordered the reserves to be called under arms, and to join the army without touching Dresden. In the case of Saxony this matter need create no surprise, for Herr von Beust need not be afraid of expense in the flourishing state of the finances of that kingdom. She would be able to bear the war-strength of the army for a few months as easily as the outlay occasioned by the circuitous route taken by the Saxon contingent upon its retreat from Holstein. But, as regards Austria, the case is different. The most pressing necessity of bearing her financial strength in mind is evident. The increase of regimental numbers and the movement of troops cannot be effected without giving rise to expense. Demonstrations for appearance sake are therefore out of the question. The armaments must be undertaken with the serious intention of waging war. No other explanation is possible. In such a position, it is incumbent upon our Government to see that Prussia is not taken by surprise. It must take care that the Austrian armaments do not gain an advantage in point of time, so that, as in 1850, Austria may not suddenly stand forth fully equipped, while no idea of such an eventuality is entertained upon our side. It must be admitted that, owing to the armaments, the situation will become more intricate and serious; but, we repeat, the weight of responsibility will attach to that party which has been the first to put forth military threats.

The French *Avenir National* of Thursday says:—

In Vienna everyone now believes that a war is near at hand. The greatest activity prevails in the various arsenals. The Quartermaster-General has received instructions to prepare ambulances for a campaign, and the Northern Railway directors have been instructed to prepare for the conveyance of troops. What is still more significant is that Austria has sent a circular to the great non-German Powers throwing from her own shoulders the responsibility of a war with Prussia on the question of the duchies. Prussia, on the other hand, shows no disposition to hold back. The influence of Herr von Bismarck, which seemed to be declining, is stronger than ever; and the Prince of Prussia, who hitherto manifested opposition to the policy of the Prime Minister, has in a conspicuous manner drawn closer to him. At a soirée which took place, on the 14th, at the house of Herr von Bismarck the Prince showed such decided attention to the host as to have been remarked by all present. Von Bismarck was evidently triumphant, and he could not conceal his satisfaction.

A despatch from Vienna of the 20th states that trains of artillery have been dispatched from Neustadt to the north by Vienna. The 18th infantry regiment has been sent from Pesth to the north, through Brunn. The white and yellow brigades, known as the King of the Belgians and the Grand Duke of Hesse regiments, are ready to leave.

REPRESENTATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—On Wednesday evening an extraordinary general meeting of the members of Convocation of this University was held at Burlington House, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken for securing, in the anticipated Government Reform Bill, provision for the due representation of the University in Parliament. Dr. Storrar took the chair, and opened the proceedings by stating generally what had been done to secure the representation of the University in Parliament. Mr. Jessel, Q.C., moved the following resolution:—"That a petition be presented to both Houses of Parliament praying that two members may be given to the University of London, such petition to be signed by the chairman of Convocation." He remarked that the number of constituents, supposing the University of London to be represented, would be 1729. In 1867, at which time any new reform bill might be supposed to come into operation, the constituency of the University of London would be 2000. It was clear, he thought, that there could not be a better constituency than a number of learned and accomplished men, for it was impossible that such a body of men would consent to be represented by a man who was inferior to the bulk of them in knowledge and education. Such a constituency, moreover, would be above all bribery and corruption, and beyond all suspicion of it. On these grounds he held that University representation would be a benefit not only to the University, but to the whole country. He should like to know what constituency could be named which would give 2000 persons equal in intelligence, experience, and knowledge, to say nothing of social standing, to those of the University of London. The members of the University who were entitled to vote were under fifty years of age and above twenty-four, so that all the voters would be in the prime of life. A representation of the University of London would also accomplish this, that every class of learned men would be represented, more especially the class of medical men, of whose accomplishments the University of London might justly be proud. The claims of the University had been recognised by three Governments, the Liberals, the Tories, and the Government of Lord Aberdeen, which might be supposed to represent the middle party between them. Under these circumstances, he thought they had a claim to be put on an equality with the old Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. He hoped that the time would come when, the University sending two members to Parliament, the word "religion" would never be mentioned either by the electors or the elected. The motion was seconded by Mr. B. N. Fowler (late a candidate for the representation of the city of London), who strongly urged the claims of the medical profession to have a voice in the House of Commons. Several gentlemen addressed the meeting in support of matters of detail, especially a recommendation of the educational franchise; and eventually the resolution was unanimously agreed to. It was then arranged that Dr. Storrar, the Master of Convocation, should take measures to secure the presentation of a petition to the House of Commons founded upon the resolution.

THE LATE GENERAL YUSUF.

GENERAL YUSUF, who commanded for the last eight or ten months the military division of Montpellier, died at Cannes on Friday morning week. There are few names in the French army more remarkable. It is not clearly known who his parents were, nor the precise place he was born in. It is believed that he knew as little on these points as the rest of the world. Neither is the date of his birth better known, though it probably was soon after the beginning of the century. His own recollections, it is said, were vague, and the first thing he well remembered was his living in the Island of Elba in 1810, and his having frequently seen Napoleon in 1814. He left Elba for Florence for his education about the same period, but by whose care is not related. His adventures began in his boyhood. The vessel in which he was a passenger was attacked and captured by a Tunis rover, and in the distribution of the spoil he fell to the Bey. The Bey took an extraordinary liking to him from the very outset, lodged him in his own palace, and, struck by the natural grace of manner and the quick intelligence of the youth, bestowed as much care on his education as was possible under the circumstances. He provided him with masters, under whom he rapidly became a proficient in the Turkish, Arabic, and Spanish languages. The Bey had an only daughter, about the same age as the young captive. An attachment sprang up between them; an intrigue was the result. It was discovered by a vigilant eunuch, who informed his master. The eunuch was found dead next day, and Yusuf took to flight. He was pursued by a party of soldiers, four of whom were killed in their attempt to seize him. With much difficulty he succeeded in gaining a French ship, the *Adonis*, when he was safe from further pursuit. He arrived at Toulon, and enrolled himself as a volunteer in the expedition to Algeria in December, 1830, under the name of Yusuf Mameluke. His energy, gallantry, pleasing manners, and intelligence soon attracted the attention of his superiors; and in less than a year he was promoted to the rank of Captain in the 1st Regiment of the Chasseurs of Africa. His knowledge of languages, which he owed to the bounty of the Bey, was of great service to him. He was employed in 1831 as interpreter in several most perilous missions. His daring character was signally conspicuous in the capture of the citadel of Bona, and his conduct on that occasion obtained for him his first decoration of the Legion of Honour, in 1832. In his despatch to the Minister of War, Savary, Duke of Rovigo, who then commanded the army of Africa, thus spoke of Yusuf:—"I know not to what page of history to turn to find a parallel for his daring gallantry in the taking of the Casbah of Bona;" and Marshal Soult declared in the Chamber of Peers that it was the finest feat of arms that the present century had witnessed. Yusuf's promotion continued to be rapid. He was named chief d'escadron of the Spahis of Oran in 1833, and two years later officer of the Legion of Honour. In 1836 he played a brilliant part in the campaign of Tlemcen, and in the unsuccessful expedition of Marshal Clausel to Constantine, of which Yusuf had been somewhat prematurely named Bey. It was in the winter of this year that he made his first appearance in Paris, where the romantic nature of his early adventures, his daring in the field, and his brilliant military career, had already invested him with great interest, and his graceful figure and noble bearing made him the hero of the day. He soon returned to Africa, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of Spahis. In 1842 Marshal Bugeaud demanded from the Minister of War his promotion as Colonel of the whole of the native cavalry. The Marshal, in his despatch, remarked that, "The praise of Lieutenant-Colonel Yusuf's gallantry is in everybody's mouth. There is not an officer, not a private soldier, of the division of Oran who does not admire him. No man ever displayed more dashing bravery or more activity of mind and body. As a light cavalry officer there are few indeed to be compared to him, and I earnestly entreat you to make him Colonel-Commandant of the whole of the Spahis of Algeria."

He became a naturalised Frenchman in 1839. In 1845 he was named Major-General, and paid a second visit to Paris, on which occasion he abjured the Mussulman faith, became a Christian, and at the same time married a niece of General Guilleminot. He returned to Africa the same year, and from that period to 1848 distinguished himself in the war against Abd-el-Kader, whom he defeated and was on the point of making prisoner. In 1856 he was promoted to General of Division, and in 1857 took a leading part in the second expedition to Kabylia. In 1860 he defeated the bands of Moorish marauders who had invaded the Algerian territory. In 1864 he was charged with putting down the insurrection of a certain number of Arab tribes, defeated them in every encounter, and reduced them to submission at Laghouat. He had been named Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour in 1860. Owing to some cause not clearly explained Marshal M'Mahon, soon after his appointment as Governor-General of Algeria, is said to have recommended that Yusuf should be relieved of his command there. He did not long, however, remain without employment. He was appointed to the military division of Montpellier, which he retained till his death.

UNTITLED COUNTIES.—There are at present eight English counties which are unrepresented among the existing nobility, but which formerly gave titles of great historic fame, now to be found in the Dormant and Extinct Peerage only—viz., one, Dorset, made so memorable by the Beauforts, Greys, and Sackvilles; two, Kent, which designated a brilliant coronet, worn by the Plantagenets, Hollands, and Greys, and a Royal dukedom, peculiarly interesting to this generation; three, York, always, and, four, Gloucester, frequently, a Royal appanage; five, Oxford, for twenty earls, the inheritance of De Vere; six, Monmouth, principally remembered in connection with the ill-fated son of Charles II.; seven, Middlesex, the title of a series of four earls of the family of Cranfield, before it became the second dignity of the Sackvilles; and, eight, Sussex, which, invested, in succession, with a well-sounding Saxon appellation, the De Albinis, De Warrens, Ratcliffes, Saviles, Lennards, and Yelvertons, and gave title to a popular Royal dukedom. Wales has only two counties unappropriated, Merioneth and Flint. In Ireland, two provinces, Ulster and Connaught—and seven counties, Kilkenny, Monaghan, Fermanagh, King's County, Queen's County, Clare, and Roscommon; and in Scotland, ten—namely, Banff, Forfar, Clackmannan, Stirling, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Kirkcubright, Wigton, and Kinross, have no peers now existing with titles derived from them.—Sir Bernard Burke's *Dormant and Extinct Peerage*.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN IRELAND.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY, which was expected in some quarters to be the signal of a Fenian outbreak, passed over in Dublin and elsewhere very quietly.

The state ball, annually given by the Lord Lieutenant in honour of St. Patrick, was held on the night of the 16th in St. Patrick's Hall, and was very numerously attended.

Another annual ceremony in honour of the national saint, "the relieving of the guard" at Dublin Castle, was celebrated on Saturday last at twelve o'clock. In former times there was a very merry gathering on such occasions to listen to the military music, under the inspiration of which, and of the "drop that drowns the shamrock," the rabble used to break forth into dancing parties, the sport ending in a wild scramble for small coins and cakes hung down into the courtyard from the balcony by the Viceroy, who wore upon his breast an enormous bunch of shamrock. At a quarter past ten o'clock the various guards to be mounted were paraded on the esplanade in front of the Royal Barracks. The bands of the regiments in garrison were present, and played a varied selection of Irish national airs to the evident gratification of the numerous concourse along the quays and in the neighbourhood of the Esplanade. The general officers commanding brigades and the officers commanding the several corps in garrison were in attendance, among them being Major-General George W. Key, Colonel the Hon. W. H. A. Feilding, Coldstream Guards, Assistant Adjutant-General, Colonel E. Seagar, Assistant Quartermaster-General, Colonel Baker, 10th Hussars, &c.

At the conclusion of the parade the order was given for the castle guard to march, which it did, marshalled by the Town Major, the band of the 10th Hussars playing "Patrick's Day," at the head, followed by the cavalry picket. The band of the second battalion 60th Rifles next came; and then the drums and fife of the Coldstream Guards, playing "Garryowen," the procession being closed by the company of the Coldstreams took off for the castle guard. A party of the 10th Hussars, consisting of a subaltern sergeant, and twenty rank and file, escorted the guard and protected the foot soldiers from being pressed by the crowd. The Lord Lieutenant and Lady Wodehouse were accompanied by the Marquis and Marchioness of Drogheda, Major-General Cunynghame, Major-General Key, Mr. Edmund K. Wodehouse, private secretary; Colonel Masters, controller of the household; Captain Willis, gentleman usher; Mr. A. Thornton Wodehouse, A.D.C.; Captain Lascelles, A.D.C., &c. The Lord Lieutenant wore the ribbon and badge of the Most Noble Order of St. Patrick and a bunch of shamrock on the left breast. Lady Wodehouse, who was in deep mourning, also wore a bunch of shamrock, and the other members of the Viceregal party were similarly decorated. Major-General Cunynghame, in addition, wearing a "Patrick's cross" on the right breast. The bands continued performing national airs until nearly half-past twelve o'clock, when, "God Save the Queen" having been played, the proceedings terminated. Throughout the morning not a single instance of disorderly conduct occurred.

THE REFORM BILL AND THE WORKING MEN'S ASSOCIATION.—A special general meeting of the Working Men's Franchise Association was held, on Tuesday evening, at the Brougham Dining Hall, Fleet-street, for the purpose of discussing and expressing an opinion upon the Government Reform Bill. There was a numerous attendance of members. After some discussion the following resolutions were passed:—"That this association, while declaring its opinion that no settlement of the reform question ought to be considered final or satisfactory which does not enfranchise the whole manhood of the country, protect the vote by the ballot, and give a more equitable distribution of the representation, considers the Reform Bill now before Parliament a step in the right direction, and therefore recommends it to the acceptance of reformers generally." "That this association is of opinion the lodger clause of the Reform Bill, as it now stands, will be very little benefit to the working classes, and therefore trusts that it will be simplified by excluding the words of 'clear yearly value,' and allow the payment of £10 per annum for rent only to give the lodger the right to be put upon the register." A resolution in favour of an extension of time for polling in the metropolitan boroughs was also passed, and one to invite the metropolitan members to meet the members of the association.

SUPPOSED SHOCK OF EARTHQUAKE AT SEA.—Captain Morse, of the ship *Syren*, of Boston, United States, which recently arrived at Birkenhead, states that on the 18th of November, 1865, at six o'clock a.m., in lat. 24 S., long. 173.30 W., while on his passage from Baker's Island to the port of Liverpool, he experienced what he supposed to be a shock of earthquake. At first was heard a heavy, deep, rumbling sound, accompanied by a vibration of the ship, which increased in violence until the vessel seemed as though driving over a reef. There was a strong breeze, with rather heavy clouds; the sea in the vicinity of the ship appeared as if suddenly fixed—a phenomenon which lasted apparently between three and four minutes. The compass-card during the time of the shock was rapidly revolving. The man at the wheel was violently and visibly shaken, and those on deck generally were scarcely able to keep their feet. One man engaged in connecting the hose-pipe to a force-pump upon the topgallant fore-castle was thrown backwards against the bits. The sound at first resembled distant thunder, and increased in intensity till at its height it could be only compared to the deafening roar of innumerable pieces of the heaviest artillery. Two sailors on the fore-castle yard at the time stated afterwards that they did not hear the noise or feel the vibration.

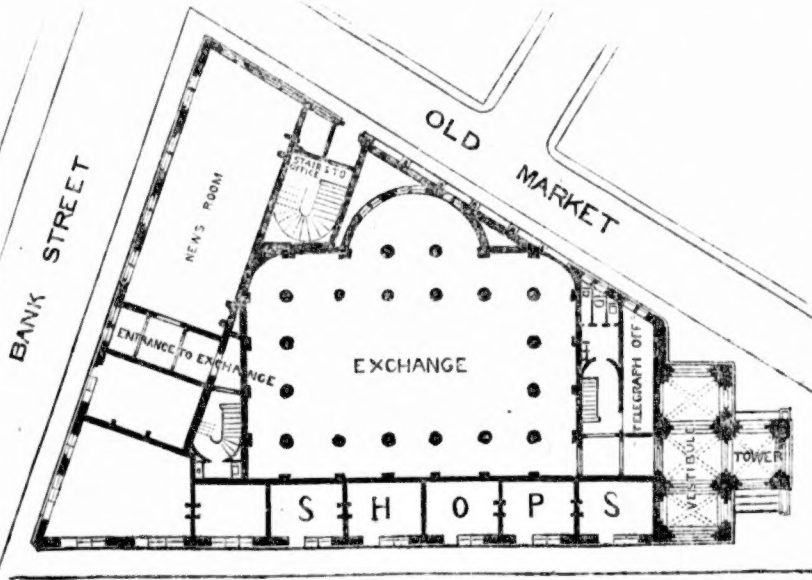
ACTION AGAINST LORD PALMERSTON.—On Monday, at the Judges' Chambers, before Mr. Justice Willes, an application was made on behalf of the Hon. Mr. Cowper, as executor of the late Lord Palmerston, in reference to an action which, since the death of his Lordship, had been brought for alleged services rendered. Mr. Wood, as counsel for the Hon. Mr. Cowper, informed Mr. Justice Willes that the action was for a large sum; and the executors believed that it was without foundation, and required the plaintiff to render "better particulars" before he proceeded with the matter. Mr. Justice Willes observed that he had heard of large demands being affectionately made after the death of high characters from persons in America and elsewhere (A laugh). Mr. Wood said the executors would, of course, defend it, believing there was no pretence for such an action. The learned counsel submitted the "particulars" already furnished to his Lordship's executors, amounting to the large sum of £5000. Mr. Justice Willes referred to the document, and found an item in reference to the matter of *Kene* in the Divorce Court. Mr. Wood said, according to the particulars, £1200 might have been charged for one month's services. On the part of the plaintiff the application was opposed, and it was submitted that the particulars supplied were sufficient. Mr. Justice Willes thought otherwise, and directed "better and fuller particulars" to be rendered before the action was allowed to proceed. His Lordship therefore made the order as prayed on the part of the executors of Lord Palmerston.

THE NEW BRADFORD EXCHANGE.

THE Exchange at Bradford having been found inadequate to the requirements of the town, it was determined, in 1864, to invite architects to send in designs according to which a new edifice might be erected. From the plans submitted one of two prepared by Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson was selected, and the building has since been erected in accordance with that design. The architects thus describe their plan in the report which accompanied their drawings:—

"The lines of the new and improved streets have been kept in view, so that the Exchange itself would be distinctly marked out as a public building; it is also made to contribute as largely as possible to the improvement of the streets. The style of the design is Venetian Gothic in character, freely treated, and admitting of great picturesqueness of effect and beauty of detail, without entailing a heavy cost. The principal entrance to the Exchange is under the tower, which rises to a considerable elevation. There is also another entrance from Bank-street, in the centre of the building, which is perhaps of scarcely less importance.

"The principal entrance under the great tower is combined with an open arcade, giving considerable picturesque effect and richness to the approach, and, at the same time, affording all the advantages of a covered outdoor area during the hours of 'change.' A vestibule, 11 ft. in width, opens from this arcade into the Exchange itself, a large and spacious hall, containing an area of 625 yards superficial. The parallelogram of the room is 90 ft. by 57 ft., and with an apse at the north side 42 ft. in diameter; also central recesses or niches, in which sculpture might with advantage be introduced. The



GROUND PLAN OF BRADFORD NEW EXCHANGE.

Exchange is surrounded by banded shafts of polished granite, with capitals and bases of Caen stone. A series of arches spring from the capitals of these columns, in each case forming windows to light the Exchange, filled in with handsome tracery of mediæval design. The interior view shows a large spandril window filling the gable wall of the Exchange at each end, and an arcade is introduced into the elevation next the Old Market, by which means several windows in the external wall open direct into the Exchange itself. The height of the room under the colonnade would be 25 ft., and in the centre 37 ft. 6 in. to the spring of the roof. The roof is constructed of open timberwork, with carved hammer-beams and wrought-iron spandrels. It has been the endeavour, in designing the interior, to give it a strong constructional character, simple in its parts and harmonious in its combinations, the decoration throughout being such as this principle suggests; and a reference to the large interior view will show how it has been worked out. The Exchange is lighted by eighteen triangular windows, 9 ft. wide and 9 ft. high, and by two windows in the gable, 18 ft. across.

The news-room, 67 ft. 6 in. by 29 ft., and containing an area of 220 yards superficial, opens immediately from the Exchange, the two floors being on the same level. This room has also the advan-

tage of independent entrances from the vestibules. The height of the news-room is 20 ft., and it is amply lighted by four three-light windows into Bank-street. The vestibules which form the approaches at these angles to the Exchange and news-room are nearly 30 ft. in diameter.

"The whole line of frontage towards Market-street, being the most valuable for this purpose, is divided and appropriated for six shops, each having a frontage of 22 ft. to the street, and a depth of 15 ft. inside. A cellar for storage under, and a show-room over, approached by a circular ornamental iron staircase, are attached to each shop.

"If found desirable, also, two of the shops might be let off, along with the vaults in the basement story, and proper internal communication provided.

"From the arcade at the principal entrance a spacious staircase gives access to the first upper floor at this end of the building. This is appropriated for the 'Chamber of Commerce'—a body whose functions render its location in the Exchange buildings peculiarly desirable. The accommodation consists of a principal chamber, 42 ft. by 24 ft. and 20 ft. high, lighted by windows overlooking the open space in front, and connected with a balcony adapted for use on public occasions; also a secretary's room, and a library for

the reception of Acts of Parliament, tariffs, and other documents connected with trade and commerce. Other conveniences are also provided.

"The remainder of this story and the whole of the second story, approached from this staircase, are subdivided into offices, to be let off in suites or singly, as desired; and which, it is thought, would return a handsome interest on the outlay, being much wanted in the town.

"The large area of the basement story, not required for shop cellars, or for the purposes of the club, is divided into two sets of vaults or cellaring, with entrances approached from the Piece Hall-yard, and with good offices to each set. These would be suitable for wine and spirit, or ale and porter stores, or for wholesale grocers or provision merchants, and, as before suggested, might be let off in connection with one or more of the front shops, if desired.

"It is proposed to warm the Exchange-room by means of a hot-water apparatus, the boiler being placed in the basement, where a suitable chamber is provided. The pipes are arranged in trenches under the floor, formed in the spandrels of the arching, and into these fresh air will also be supplied from external apertures, all under control. The offices generally, the news-room and the club-



BRADFORD NEW EXCHANGE.—(LOCKWOOD AND MAWSON, ARCHITECTS.)

rooms, are warmed by open fireplaces, each room having ventilating flues formed in the ceiling and floor, for the supply of fresh and the extraction of foul air—and all under control. Pipe flues would also be built in with the chimney breasts, fitted with proper valve mouth-pieces. All the windows would be made to open at pleasure. The artificial lighting to be generally by gaseliers and brackets, and in the large Exchange-room by coronas of light, suspended from the hammer-beam.

The cost of the building, according to the architects' estimate, is £26,885.

THE LOND ON RAGGED-SCHOOL UNION.

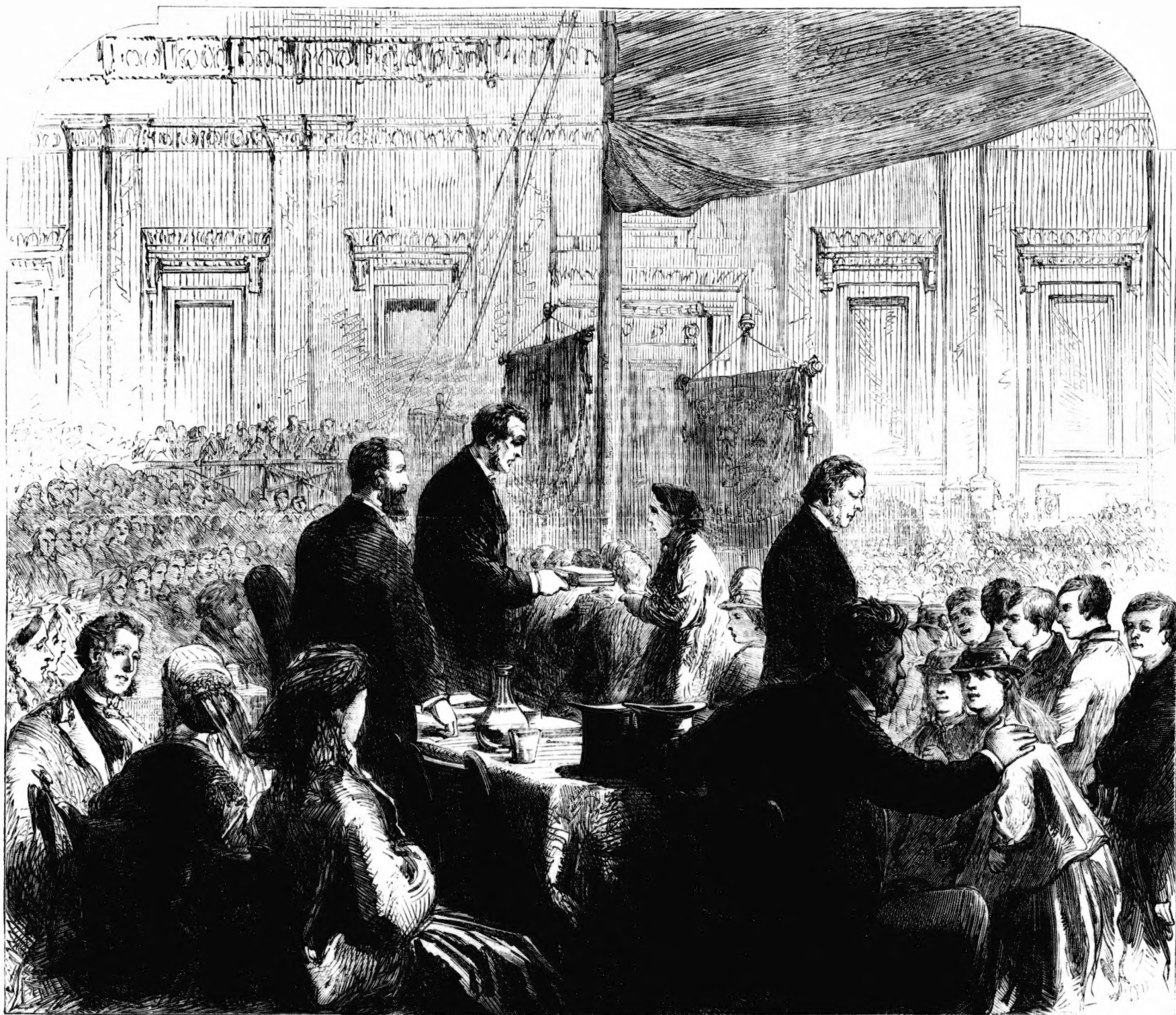
THE meeting of the scholars who have kept their situations for twelve months or upwards with good characters, and have therefore obtained prizes, was held on Monday evening, at Exeter Hall, where about 550 scholars assembled to tea. The hall suggested the idea of an ancient encampment, every school being mustered under its own banner, which was conspicuously displayed; and after tea, when the Earl of Shaftesbury entered and took the chair, the cheering might well have been compared to that of a little army welcoming a successful leader. Mr. Gent read a report stating that the number of prizeholders for the thirteen years since the commencement of the Union, 7552, of whom 4402 were

boys and 3150 girls. This year the number of applicants had been 627, of whom 297 boys and 259 girls had obtained prizes. Those who had not succeeded had been mostly disqualified either from not having yet been a sufficient time in their situations or from being over or under the required age. Fifty-five of the boys had taken prizes previously—one of them now receiving his fifth prize; sixty-one of the girls had taken prizes more than once. None had remained in their situations for a shorter period than twelve months, and some had held them for eight years. Lord Shaftesbury said that he must shortly leave the meeting, as, in consequence of a recent attack of faceache, he was obliged to be careful at present. He spoke of the supper to the homeless boys which had been given a short time since, and said that they had taken in fifty-four of them. They had settled down to work steadily, and now, after having been tested three weeks, seemed to like their work and do it with good-will. He called upon the boys present to give "three times three" for the sentiment, "A long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together." This demand having been enthusiastically responded to, the schools defiled across the platform, his Lordship handing the prizes for each school to the teacher. The prizes consisted of testimonial cards, and, in the cases of first recipients, were accompanied with 7s. 6d. It was stated that the cards had frequently been of value to the holders in enabling them to obtain good places. On the departure of the noble chairman, Sir R. Carden took the chair. The Rev. W. Cadman addressed

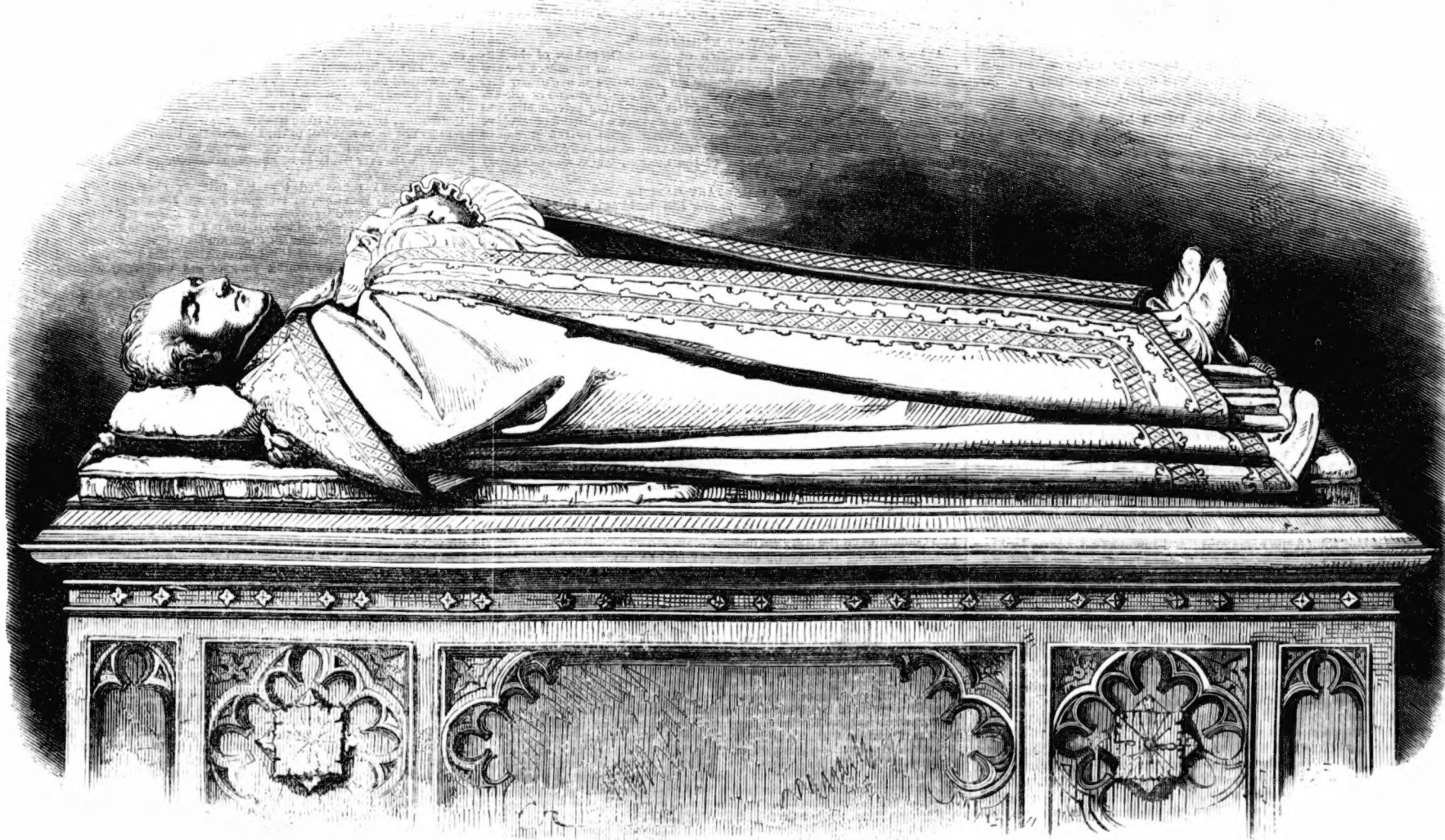
the scholars. He was followed by Joseph Payne, Esq., who delivered an address that highly amused his auditors. After this John Harris, Esq., exhibited his series of Scripture illustrations, which were explained by Thomas Brooker, Esq., and the meeting concluded with the Doxology and a benediction.

MONUMENT TO THE LATE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

THE character of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Bird Sumner, was such as to secure the respect and veneration of men of all creeds and parties; and it is not surprising, therefore, as already stated in these columns, that a monument to the memory of the deceased Prelate should be erected in the cathedral church of his diocese, at Canterbury. This monument, of which we publish an Engraving, is placed in the north wall of the cathedral, and is formed of a solid piece of fine Caen stone, sculptured in the plain Gothic style, and bearing an effigy of the late Archbishop in the full episcopal robes. In the centre of the base is inscribed, in old English characters, "John Bird Sumner, born 1780; Bishop of Chester, 1828; Archbishop of Canterbury, 1848; died 1862. He showed out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. St. James chap iii. 13." The monument is the work of Mr. H. Weekes, R.A.



DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO PUPILS OF THE LONDON RAGGED SCHOOL UNION AT EXETER HALL.



TOMB OF THE LATE DR. SUMNER, IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.—(DESIGNED BY H. WEEKS, E.Q., R.A.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 274.

ILLNESS OF THE SPEAKER, AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

It is a curious fact that until 1853 no provision had been made for supplying the place of the Speaker of the House of Commons when he was ill and could not perform his duties. When he was thus compelled to be absent, the Clerk announced the cause of his absence, and the House adjourned. When Mr. Speaker was ill for a considerable time, a new Speaker was elected with all the usual formalities. On the recovery of the Speaker thus deposed the new Speaker would resign, or, as May tells us, "fall back," and the former Speaker was re-elected in due form. But in 1853 the House, having considered this matter, passed the following resolution, to which the necessary consent of the Crown was obtained:—"That, whenever the House shall be informed of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Ways and Means do take the chair for that day only; and, in the event of Mr. Speaker's absence continuing for more than one day, do, if the House think fit and shall so order it, take the chair in like manner on any subsequent day during his absence." No provision, however, was made for the performance of the duties which Mr. Speaker has to perform when he is out of the chair. But in 1855 the House resolved "That, whenever the House shall be informed by the Clerk at the table of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Ways and Means do perform the duties and exercise the authority of Speaker in relation to all proceedings of the House, as Deputy Speaker, until the next meeting of the House, and so on from day to day, on the like information being given to the House, until the House shall otherwise order, provided that if the House shall adjourn for more than twenty-four hours the Deputy Speaker shall continue to perform the duties and exercise the authority of Speaker for twenty-four hours only after such adjournment." Mr. Speaker, as our readers know, has been ill, and unable to perform his duties for a week or more, and, under this resolution, Mr. Dodson, the Chairman of Ways and Means, has taken the chair as Deputy Speaker.

SOMETHING NEW.

And now, as faithful chroniclers, we have to notice something new in Parliamentary practice. First, then, the House, during the past week, has been presided over, for the first time in its long history, by a Deputy Speaker, intrusted with all the powers and authority of the Speaker. The Chairman of Ways and Means more than once took the Speaker's chair during the interval between 1853 and 1855, but he took it only as a *locum tenens*; but now he takes it as Mr. Deputy Speaker, and is so addressed when members rise to speak. The House of Commons has been in existence 500 years or more, and never before had a Deputy Speaker in the chair. Surely this fact is worth noting; and here is another new thing under the sun. Mr. Speaker, when he marches to the House, with the Serjeant-at-Arms bearing the mace before him, and his train-bearer and robed Chaplain behind, is always heralded by the doorkeeper, who goes to the bar, and calls out "Mr. Speaker!" But on Monday, the 12th, the Speaker was not present. The Serjeant came with the mace on his shoulder; but the Speaker was absent. The doorkeeper, therefore, could not call out "Mr. Speaker." What, then, was he to say? This, no doubt, was a grave question for the authorities to consider. There were no precedents, and one must be made. There was no Speaker, but then there was the awful symbol of his authority; and, after consideration due to so weighty a matter had been given, the doorkeeper was ordered to cry out "The Mace!" and this he did, to the no small astonishment of the members present. And well they might be startled, for this was the first time that this cry was ever heard within the walls of the House. This cry, though, was as effective as the other; as soon as it was heard, the members who were gossiping in knots on the floor rushed to their places, and, all standing uncovered, paid as much honour to the symbol of the Speaker's authority as they do to the Speaker himself.

THE MACE.

And, now we are writing upon this matter, let us say a few words upon the mace. It is, as we have said, the symbol of the Speaker's authority. He never, *quasi* Speaker, goes anywhere without it. When he marches to the bar of the Lords, it is carried before him; when he goes to Court with the House to present an address to the Queen, he appears there with the Serjeant-at-Arms and the mace; and so when the House goes to St. Margaret's Church on days set apart for humiliation and thanksgiving. Indeed, it would seem that there can be no House without the mace. When Mr. Speaker is in the chair, the mace lies before him on the table; when the Speaker leaves the chair, and the House resolves itself into Committee, the mace is hidden under the table. When Cromwell dissolved the Rump Parliament by force, he did not forget to order "the bauble" to be taken away; and in 1675, when a serious disturbance arose, threatening bloodshed, whilst the House was in Committee, and Mr. Speaker (without motion made) stepped into the chair, there was a violent struggle to set the mace on the table, as though it was felt that until that was done the authority of Mr. Speaker to restore order would not be complete.

NEW MEMBERS ON THEIR LEGS.

New members crop up now as speakers every night; so fast, indeed, that, having had other matters of more importance to attend to, we have not been able to describe their speeches, nor, indeed, to chronicle their appearance. But no matter. No "bright particular star" has at present appeared over the horizon, except Mr. John Stuart Mill, and his appearance we did notice. Generally these new lights, if lights they can be called, are not stars at all, but mere dusky, vaporous bodies, scarcely discernible, and worthy of little notice. One night last week Captain Grosvenor got upon his legs to talk about Reform. He rose first with Mr. Baines, and for a time we had a scene. Mr. Baines caught the Deputy Speaker's eye, but a turbulent cry of "new member" arose, and, according to a rule of courtesy which has long been observed, Mr. Baines ought to have dropped into his seat. This, however, he did not, but, having got the call of the chair, obstinately, though calmly, stood up, waiting till the storm should subside. The gallant Captain also, encouraged by the cries of "new member!" "Grosvenor! Grosvenor!" maintained his position; and thus, for a time, we had two members on their legs, which was very disorderly. At last, Mr. Deputy Speaker rose, and cried "Order! order!" but his voice, which is not strong, could scarcely be heard. Now, when Mr. Deputy Speaker rose, Mr. Baines and Captain Grosvenor ought to have dropped into their seats, for it is a well-known rule that no member must continue standing when the Speaker rises. After a time Captain Grosvenor did sit down, but Mr. Baines resolutely kept his position; probably he did not see the Deputy Speaker rise, for he had folded his arms and fixed his eyes on space, looking like Patience on a monument. As Grosvenor was now down, Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed his seat, thinking, no doubt, that now the storm would lull. But, lo! as soon as he had dropped down, Captain Grosvenor again jumped up, and once more the tempest raged. At length, Mr. Deputy Speaker again rising, shouted out "Mr. Baines" at the top of his voice. Whereupon the gallant Captain gave up the fight. The storm gradually passed away, and Mr. Baines proceeded to deliver his speech. The Captain followed, and it is just to say that he spoke very well—i. e., there was no stuttering nor stammering. What he said he said with gentlemanly ease. But here praise must end, for what he said threw no light upon the question under discussion; and, like three fourths of the things said in the House, might as well have been left unsaid. Captain Grosvenor is a member for Westminster, son of Lord Ebury, and nephew of the Marquis of Westminster. On the night after this scene occurred—the second night of the Reform debate—Mr. Arthur Wellesley Peel rose, youngest son of the late and brother of the present Sir Robert Peel, and made his maiden speech. We all know the present Sir Robert; his tall, handsome figure; his full, round face; his flashing, restless eyes; and eccentric ways. Well, Mr. Arthur Peel is not like his brother: more like his father, we should say, and probably will grow more and more like as he gets older. We did not hear Mr. Arthur Peel speak, and therefore must

reserve our judgment; but good judges say that, if not specially good, it was certainly, for a first speech, very promising. Mr. Peel represents Warwick, having wrested the seat from Mr. Greaves, the Conservative banker and local magnate there. Time and space would fail were we to notice all the new speakers; but we will run over, in a hurried way, one or two more. First, then, there is Sir Charles Russell, the member for Berkshire, who comes to us with laurels gathered in the Crimea, where he was Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, and achieved fame. A good soldier is Sir Charles Russell, no doubt; and if he would but form and drill his sentences carefully he might be a better speaker than he is. As, however, he has had military experience, he may be useful in criticising the Army Estimates. Mr. Thomas Chambers, the member for Marylebone, from which borough he ousted Lord Fermoy, is not a new member, but an old one revived. Mr. Chambers is well known to us; recollections of his sayings and doings still live faintly in our memories, but not odorously; for the hon. member for Marylebone is one of the extreme Protestant party; one of that small set—in every way small—"who, under hot ardent zeal, would set whole realms on fire," and think they did God service by raising the flame. When he was in Parliament before he used specially to devote himself to nunneries and the suspected mysteries therein. Indeed, we fancy that

He was the first
That ever burst
Into that dreary sea;

at all events, the first of modern times; and he is not a whit changed. He is still, as ever, dreaming uneasily under the nightmare of Popery; and neither in the heavens nor on the earth, in the present or the future, can he see anything else. In short, he is a man of one idea, and on this he turns like a wheel on an axle. On Thursday week Mr. Chambers made his first speech in this Parliament, and, of course, it was on this subject. He speaks fluently, even eloquently, and with much earnestness and vigour; but, as to matter, let our readers, remembering that it was Chambers speaking on Roman Catholic oaths, imagine of what nature the matter was.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

STATE OF IRELAND.

Earl GREY moved that their Lordships should on Tuesday night go into Committee to consider the state of Ireland. Having dilated at much length upon the state of the country and people, which, he argued, was in general deplorable and a disgrace to a civilised nation, the noble Earl read a series of twelve resolutions embodying his view upon the Irish difficulty, which he proposed to lay before the Committee.

Lord DUFFERIN called upon the House to negative the motion of the noble Earl, on the ground partly of the inconvenience of deciding whether they would or would not go into Committee upon resolutions with which they would not have time or opportunity to make themselves acquainted.

A long debate ensued, and at its conclusion Earl Grey's motion was negatived without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE MILITARY COLLEGES.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply.

Lord E. CECIL moved a humble address to the Queen to appoint a Royal Commission, consisting of military and civilian members, to inquire into the present constitution, system of education, and discipline of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, as well as into the general treatment of the gentlemen cadets at Sandhurst, and into the rules and regulations under which candidates are admitted into those colleges.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON thought the matter had better be left in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief and his advisers, and that there were no sufficient grounds to justify interference by means of a commission of inquiry. Upon a division, the motion was negatived by 152 to 132.

After several questions, chiefly relating to Ireland, had been put and discussed, the House went into Committee of Supply.

MONDAY, MARCH 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, referring to a petition presented by Lord Stradbroke, said, at present persons who were arrested on account of costs in certain actions, and were unable to pay the same, could not obtain their release under the Bankruptcy Act, and it would be necessary to make some alteration in the law to meet such cases.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in answer to questions from Sir H. Hoare and Mr. H. Seymour, said that the Government would not deem themselves discharged of their responsibilities in the matter of Parliamentary Reform until they had proposed a measure for the redistribution of seats; but they reserved to themselves perfect liberty of choice as to the time for bringing it forward. They would also propose a commission to report on the revision of borough boundaries.

THE DAY OF HUMILIATION.

A long discussion arose on a motion of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER that to-morrow (being the day of humiliation appointed for the diocese of London) no Select Committee do sit before one o'clock. Mr. BOUVIER, Mr. BRIGHT and others objecting to it on the ground of the additional expense it would throw on the parties prosecuting private bills and election petitions, and pointing out that this was not a national observance enjoined by the State, but simply a day recommended by the Bishop of London for his own diocese. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER and Lord J. MANNERS argued in favour of the motion, which was ultimately carried, on a division, by 255 to 112.

PARLIAMENTARY OATHS.

The Parliamentary Oaths Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.

RELIEF OF TROOPS IN INDIA.

Mr. O'REILLY, in drawing attention to the present mode of conducting the relief of troops stationed in India, described the waste of life and the deterioration of discipline occasioned by it, and suggested that the tour of Indian service should be reduced to five years, entering into minute statistics to show that the change would secure greater efficiency, and that the additional cost would hardly exceed £40,000 a year.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON admitted the importance of the subject, and promised that Mr. O'Reilly's suggestions should be considered, though he believed they would be found more costly than was anticipated.

THE LOSS OF THE LONDON.

Sir J. PAKINGTON brought under the notice of the House the mode in which the recent inquiry into the loss of the London was conducted, which he characterised as a mockery and delusion as far as any future public benefit is concerned.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON vindicated the impartiality and the independence of the inquiry, pointing out that it was not in the nature of a prosecution, or intended to determine the rights or liabilities of any parties. While maintaining that there had been no substantial failure of justice in this case, he admitted that the present system of inquiries, though it had done much good, was susceptible of improvement, and intimated that the matter was under consideration.

After some further discussion the subject dropped, and the House went into Committee on the Navy Estimates.

COURT OF CHANCERY (IRELAND).

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill came on, when a motion for further adjournment was defeated by 99 to 55; and, a second motion being made by Lord Claud Hamilton, it was ultimately adjourned till Wednesday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl GRANVILLE, in reply to questions by the Duke of Montrose and the Duke of Marlborough, said the Order in Council allowed healthy cows to be moved a limited distance in the metropolis with a license. With regard to the effect produced by the stoppage of the movement of cattle by railway, the Government had been overwhelmed with complaints on the subject, and he was of opinion that the prohibition could not be long continued. It was intended to allow the carriage of cattle by railways in certain districts, and under certain restrictions, so as not to come into contact with the cattle plague. Notice would be given of these changes, and the existing prohibition would be enforced until the new order came into operation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

Earl GROSVENOR gave notice that, on the second reading of the Electoral Franchise Bill, he should submit an amendment to the effect that the House is of opinion that it is inexpedient to consider the bill for the reduction of the franchise until the House has before it the whole scheme for the reform of the representation of the people.

Sir W. RUTT also gave notice that, in the event of the House going into

Committee on the Electoral Franchise Bill, he should move, as a proviso to the first clause, "That that Act shall not commence or take effect until after the provision shall have been made for such redistribution of seats in the counties, cities, and boroughs of England and Wales as Parliament may deem expedient; and that that Act shall, with the other, be construed as one Act."

Mr. GLADSTONE, in reply to Sir A. Baller, said the Government would, in its own good time, bring in a bill for the better prevention of corrupt practices at elections.

VOTING PUBLIC MONEY.

Mr. AYRTON moved resolutions relating to applications for public money, which were agreed to without a dissentient, and the resolutions made standing orders of the House.

THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

Lord R. MONTAGU called attention to the dispute between the two Houses of the Legislature in the colony of Victoria, arising out of the imposition of certain protective duties by the Lower House without the consent of the Legislative Council; and moved for additional papers relating to the subject.

Mr. CARDWELL, while promising to produce the papers asked for, deprecated the House constituting itself a court of appeal to decide in colonial disputes, as such a course would inevitably be to sever the ties between the mother country and her dependencies.

IMPROVEMENT OF COMMONS.

Mr. COWPER obtained leave to bring in a bill to make provision for the improvement of commons in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. The measure will prohibit the inclosure by the Inclosure Commissioners of waste lands within a radius of fifteen miles round London, and establish a Board of Commissioners whose duty it will be to effect the drainage of the commons, and render them suitable for public recreation.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

Mr. OLIPHANT gave notice that, on April 10, he should move an address for a Royal Commission to procure information as a basis for determining whether any and what alteration may be made in the boundaries of boroughs and the existing distribution of seats in the House of Commons.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY TESTS.

Mr. COLERIDGE, in moving the second reading of the Oxford Tests Abolition Bill, stated that his object was to restore the University to its original national character, and to open a full enjoyment of its benefits to all the lay subjects of the Queen, even though they might not be able to sign the Thirty-nine Articles and conform to the Book of Common Prayer. He contended that the University, as distinguished from the colleges, was a lay institution in its government, education, and other material features, and denied that it had, or ought to have, any exclusive connection with the Church of England. That there was a substantial connection between the two he admitted, but he argued that this bill would not weaken it, and that the University would remain Church of England substantially, notwithstanding the presence of a few Dissenters in Convocation, just as Parliament and the country were substantially Christian and Protestant in spite of the presence of a few Jews and a large body of Roman Catholics. He dilated on the advantages which would be conferred on Dissenters, Churchmen, and the nation at large by this measure, pointing out that the absence of high and refined education among the Dissenters produced occasionally narrowness of view and intolerance in politics and religion, and expressed a strong opinion that Dissent, when brought face to face with the influences of the University, could not hold its ground. He urged the folly, in a democratic age, of minimising any Conservative and moderating influence, which he showed a University education to be, and dwelt with much force on the great advantage of making the University a place where free inquiry could safely be prosecuted. He described the provisions of the bill, which would relieve men from the necessity of conforming to the Prayer Book and signing the Thirty-nine Articles on taking their M.A., and mentioned that it contained a safeguard against Dissenters being appointed masters of grammar schools.

Mr. TREVELYAN seconded the motion.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE, who had given notice of a motion to reject the bill, intimated that he should not proceed to a division if the debate revealed a disposition to agree to a settlement in Committee which would be satisfactory to both parties. As an objection to the present bill, he pointed out that it was not promoted by any of the parties interested in remedying whatever grievance might exist—the University, the Dissenters, or the Government; and therefore did not offer to the House the assurance of a satisfactory settlement of the question. He based his objections to the bill, not on any fear of the presence of a few Dissenters in Convocation, but on the change in the distinctive character of the religious teaching of the University which it must produce; and that, so long as the clergy of the Church were educated at the University, he pointed out was a matter of the utmost importance.

Mr. BUNTON objected to any compromise of principle, and argued for the abolition of all religious tests in regard to the Universities, showing that Churchmen as well as Dissenters would be benefited by the bill.

Mr. B. HOPE argued in favour of the Cambridge compromise, which would give Dissenters the advantages and the prestige of a University education, but objected to give them a share of the government of the University.

Mr. LAMONT supported the bill.

Sir W. HEATHCOTE, though favourable to the admission of Dissenters to the University, pointed out that this bill involved consequences much wider than were contemplated by its promoters. Being anxious to effect a settlement, if possible, he expressed a readiness to go into Committee on the bill, though it did not cover all the demands which were made by Dissenters.

Mr. BUTLER-JOHNSTONE argued in favour of the national character of the University, and ridiculed the idea of its connection with the Church of England being affected by the admission of a few Dissenters.

After some observations from Mr. NEATE, who condemned the system of tests as out of date, and certainly unnecessary for laymen,

Mr. HENLEY based his opposition to the bill on the ground that it would destroy the denominational system of religious teaching at the University, and would not satisfy conscientious Dissenters.

Mr. LOWE, in supporting the bill, characterised it as infinitesimally small, and warned its supporters that they would never attain their object unless they placed their demands on a broad principle, which would rouse public sympathy in their favour. He maintained that the University was a national institution, and ought to be co-extensive with the nation; advising the Dissenters not to be satisfied until, as far as the University was concerned, they were placed upon a perfect equality with Churchmen, and denied that Dissenters were ever likely to be numerous enough to affect the government of the University.

Mr. HARDY contended that the primary characteristic of University education was religious, and argued against the admission to its governing body of persons who were opposed to the religious teaching of the Church of England. He predicted that if the bill passed, the clergy of the Church of England would be compelled to obtain their education elsewhere.

Mr. GOSCHEN supported the bill, denying that the admission of a few Dissenters into the governing body of the University would destroy the religious character of its education.

Lord CRANBURN contended the bill as destructive of the dogmatic teaching of the University, and by reference to the recent history of the House of Commons showed that even a small number of Dissenting members or Convocation, well organised, might exercise considerable influence on its deliberations.

Mr. MORLEY made some observations in favour of the bill, and, after a few words in reply from Mr. COLERIDGE, the second reading of the bill was carried by 217 to 103.

BOSTON ELECTION.

Mr. E. EGERTON reported that the Boston Election Committee had resolved that Mr. Parry, the sitting member, is not duly elected; that Mr. Staniland, the petitioner, is duly elected. The Clerk of the Crown was ordered to attend and amend the return.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MASTERS AND OPERATIVES.

Lord ST. LEONARDS introduced a bill dealing with the difficulties at present existing between operatives and masters, and facilitating arbitration between them. It was similar in principle (the noble Lord was understood to say) to another bill which he had previously introduced, but which had not passed through the House.

The bill was then read a first time.

RECKLESS DRIVING IN LONDON.

The Marquis of WESTMOUTH called attention to this subject; but in doing so used some unparliamentary phrases, for which he was called to order. Nothing definite was elicited on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Lord H. Lennox, said there had been a correspondence between the Government and the trustees of the British Museum as to the improvement of the constitution of the British Museum, which might be made the subject of explanation when the question came practically before the House. In his (the Chancellor of the Exchequer's) view the first step to be taken was that the Government should state to the House their intention with reference to the building at Kensington. No other step of a definite nature would be taken until that question was decided. No decision had been come to as to filling up the post of secretary librarian. If there had been any correspondence between the trustees of the British Museum and the various departments of the Government it would be produced. Any removal of articles from the British Museum to Kensington would be brought under the notice of the House.

EXPENSES OF ELECTIONS.

Mr. W. BEAUMONT asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the additional cost of Parliamentary contests, arising from

the proposed increase of electors, Government would introduce clauses in their Reform Bill—1. To render illegal the conveyance of voters to the poll at the expense of candidates, and to multiply polling places. 2. To defray, out of local rates, certain election charges connected with returning officers, polling places, &c.; and generally to reduce the costs of the contests.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the Government must take up the questions relating to the representation of the people in what they thought their natural order, and, so far as they were able to judge, it would be their duty to consider the subject with reference to the boundaries of towns, and particularly the redistribution of seats, before coming to the machinery of the law and the expenses of elections.

THE HABEAS CORPUS SUSPENSION ACT.

Mr. LAWSON (Attorney-General for Ireland), in reply to the O'Donoghue, said an investigation was made in the case of every person arrested under the Suspension Act, and no person was imprisoned unless the Government were satisfied that he was clearly engaged in the conspiracy.

THE LOSS OF THE LONDON.

Mr. GIBSON, in answer to Mr. Grant, said the inquiry was so far satisfactory, all the witnesses having been fully examined, although the mode in which these inquiries were generally conducted might be improved. As to the cause of the sinking of the ship, he could only refer to the report itself, which stated that it was caused by water getting into the engine-room and putting out the fires.

TOTNES ELECTION.

Mr. BOUYERIE announced the decision of the Committee appointed to try the petition against the election for Totnes. They had determined that John Pender had not been duly elected, but that William Seymour had been. They had also come to a resolution to the effect that Mr. Pender had been guilty of bribery; that he had made an offer of place or emolument to John Harris; and that a system of gross corruption had prevailed.

THE ESCAPE OF STEPHENS, THE HEAD CENTRE.

Mr. WHITESIDE called the attention of the House to the circumstances connected with the escape of Stephens, the Head Centre, from Richmond Prison. He blamed the Government for having delayed their measures of repression until after the general elections, and concluded by moving for the production of any reports or papers that would give the House information on the subject.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for Ireland was very willing at any time to meet the challenge thrown out by the right hon. gentleman and to have the policy of the government of Ireland discussed. He had no objection to the production of the documents asked for, believing that they would exonerate the Government from any blame in the matter.

Mr. GEORGE took exceptions to the conduct of the Government with regard to this conspiracy.

Sir R. PEEL was of opinion that the Government had acted in the best manner they could under the circumstances, and had still the confidence of the country.

After some further discussion the subject then dropped.

THE NEW COURTS OF JUSTICE.

Mr. C. BENTINCK moved a resolution to the effect that, in the opinion of the House, it was not expedient that the competition for the building of the new courts of justice should be limited to six architects only.

After some further discussion the House divided, when Mr. Bentinck's motion was carried against the Government by a majority of 101 against 70; and the resolution was agreed to.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the remaining Army Estimates.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1866.

RECKLESS JEHUS.

THE *lex talionis* has a certain rude justice about it which one might not be disinclined to see reduced to practice occasionally, were not the excessive refinement of the present day so strongly opposed to such a course. To exact an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, is, we confess, an inconvenient way of punishing those who recklessly endanger the eyes and the teeth, the limbs and the lives, of their neighbours. And yet we fear the streets of this metropolis will not be rendered safe to the wayfarer till the spirit at least of the *lex talionis* be applied to those who habitually render locomotion in London a perilous adventure. The reckless and ribald Jehus of the metropolis—the ignorant, rude, and careless fellows who, throned on the box of a hansom cab, the driving-board of a heavy goods waggon, or the natty seat of a spring-cart, career along the public thoroughfares at desperate pace, regardless of the safety of pedestrians, and who, when remonstrated with, only answer with ribald jeers and abuse—must be made to feel in their own persons that some consideration is due to the persons of others.

The number of accidents, as they are called, though there are no elements of accident whatever in them, are every day becoming of more frequent occurrence. Indeed, scarcely a day passes without a case being added to the list. We had hoped that the late knocking down and death of a Baronet, and a like occurrence, luckily unattended by serious consequences, to a member of Parliament, would have roused the Legislature to take some step to protect the persons of passengers in the streets from the dangers to which they are now exposed. But we suppose nothing short of the death of a Bishop, or a Prime Minister at the least, will have the desired effect. More stringent measures for regulating traffic, restraining reckless drivers, and punishing offenders, must be devised. Mere fines for misconduct have no apparent effect. Delinquents must be made to suffer in their own persons. We cannot, of course, place a cabman who is convicted of reckless driving at a street-crossing, rush furiously at him with a hansom, and "laugh consumedly" at the fright we give him. This is his way of acting, and we cannot imitate his brutality; but we can subject him to imprisonment, with hard labour, for his delinquencies, and refuse to let him off with a fine. In this way he and others of his sort may be made to realise the fact that endangering the lives and limbs of her Majesty's lieges is not a legitimate subject of sport, as they appear at present to suppose. We ourselves lately saw a fellow on a hansom cab driving at full speed along one of the most

crowded thoroughfares in Bloomsbury; and, when called upon to moderate his pace, he turned round upon his seat, occupied himself in making derisive gestures and uttering jeering shouts at the remonstrants, while his horse was allowed to tear along unguided and as it listed. Such a brute as that cares nothing for a fine or a magisterial rebuke. He is only sensible of what touches his person, and to that point of sensitiveness the public must appeal. Cabmen, as a rule, though we are willing to admit that there are exceptions, do not belong to the most refined or intelligent classes of society; and though it would be a libel upon them to say that all, or even a majority, are reckless and insolent, yet it is beyond dispute that many of them are; and means must be devised of dealing with them as they deserve, and as they will appreciate. Careful and decent men will not be affected by such measures, for the simple reason that they will not become amenable to them. Reckless, foolish blackguards only will suffer; and when they do, we may safely say, "Serve them right."

While, however, we take measures to check and to punish wilful negligence and misconduct in "cabby" and his confrères, we must be careful not to run to an opposite extreme, and throw all the responsibility upon them. Such a course would be equally dangerous as that which at present obtains. While drivers of vehicles must be taught that it is their duty to keep a look-out, and see that the course is clear before them, that they ought to reduce their speed at crossings, that they should exercise extra care in turning corners, and that the streets have not been made for their exclusive convenience; every man, woman, and child, whether riding or on foot, is bound also to take every possible precaution to secure his or her personal safety. Pedestrians as well as Jehus ought to keep their eyes open and their wits about them; foot passengers also ought to look out and see that the way is clear before they venture to cross a crowded thoroughfare or run in the line of passing vehicles. It is very true, but it is very true, to say that, if people would but be careful and "wide awake," there would be slight danger. But, then, people often are not careful; they sometimes get confused, and run to meet danger while they are seeking to avoid it. And hence it is necessary that those who are most to blame—such as a certain class of cabdrivers—should be placed under greater restraints, subjected to more stringent rules, and made amenable to severe punishment when guilty of transgression.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has consented to be present at the Easter Monday review at Brighton.

PRINCE ALFRED was sworn in on Wednesday as Master of Trinity House, to which office, vacant by the death of Lord Palmerston, his Royal Highness was recently elected.

MR. FENWICK has resigned his place as Civil Lord of the Admiralty. This step has been taken partly in consequence of ill-health and partly on account of the loss of his seat in Parliament.

SPAIN has recognised Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

THE EARL OF MALMESBURY is suffering from a very severe attack of gout. It is most likely that the noble Earl will not be able to leave town for the Easter recess.

MR. FREDERICK DAVID GOLDSMID, M.P. for Honiton, died on Sunday night last, from the effects of a severe cold caught in returning from the House of Commons.

CAPTAIN HERBERT has been returned unopposed for the county of Kerry in the room of his late father. The young member made all sorts of liberal promises.

GENERAL GRANT has been presented by a number of gentlemen of New York with a purse containing 105,000 dols. In several parts of the country he has been nominated as a candidate for the presidency in 1868.

IN CHINA, in 1865, there were 187 missionaries, including ladies. Of these ninety-two are American, seventy-seven are English, and eighteen are German.

THE TEWKESBURY ELECTION closed on Tuesday in the return of the Conservative candidate. The contest was very close throughout, Sir Edward Lechmere being returned by a majority of only four votes over his opponent.

THE ITALIAN CABINET have addressed a fresh note to the Swiss Government on the subject of the projected Alpine railway, protesting against the opinion of the Federal Council that the Splügen route is inadmissible.

SIR JAMES WYLDE, on Tuesday, decided the question of a Mormon marriage that came before him a short time ago with a view to its dissolution. The Judge decided that a polygamous marriage could not be recognised in a Christian country, and he therefore dismissed the case.

THE HON. MRS. ROMILLY, wife of the eldest son of Lord Romilly (Master of the Rolls), died on Saturday morning. The lamented lady was confined within the last three weeks, and, till shortly before her death, was considered to be doing well. She was daughter of Sir Gaspard le Marchant.

A CARPENTER was working on board a ship in the Liverpool docks the other day when a worthless fellow stole his saw and afterwards pawned it. The thief afterwards added insult to injury by selling the pawn-ticket to the carpenter.

A BILL has been introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives requiring 7000 dols. to be paid by any railroad company to the widow or minor child of any person killed on a railroad in that State.

ONE OF THE DOUBLE-HUMPED OR BACTRIAN CAMELS in Edmond's menagerie has lately given birth to a fine male calf at Bilsden, Suffolk. This is the second instance of the kind occurring in this country, the other having been calved at Hackney in January, 1864, in the same collection.

LORD RANELAGH and MR. HERITAGE, late Conservative candidates for Bodmin, have had a verdict given against them in an action for some election expenses, they having repudiated, but vainly, the authority of one of their agents.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS, after an interval of two or three years, is again going to give a series of readings. These, thirty in number, will be given in London, the provinces, and in Scotland. The first reading will take place in Liverpool, on April 5; the first in London will be given at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday, April 10.

THE COLLECTED WORKS of the elder Disraeli, edited by the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli, are shortly to be reissued by Messrs. Warne and Co., in monthly parts and quarterly volumes. A new edition of the right hon. gentleman's popular novels and tales will also be published.

THE NEW INTERMEDIATE DOCK at BIRKENHEAD was formally inspected on Monday, by the Mersey Dock Board, and was opened for commercial purposes on Tuesday. Its area embraces 7½ acres, and it has three entrances from the river. The new dock will be of immense advantage in bringing the Birkenhead docks into useful operation.

A LABOURING MAN, living at Thorpe-le-Fallows, filled up the Government schedule requiring the number of live stock in his possession on the 5th inst., as follows:—

I, William Goulding, the truth will tell—
I've got three pigs I want to sell;
I want to replace 'em, but that makes me fatter;
I can't get 'em home if the law does not alter.

THE LORDS OF THE TREASURY have promulgated an order that Granton, at present a creek within the port of Leith, be constituted an independent port, and a warehousing port for all goods except tobacco, and for tobacco when removed under bond for home consumption or for ships' stores; and the Commissioners of Customs have notified by a general order just issued that the arrangement shall take effect on and from the 1st proximo.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, it is said, has decided to order the unconditional release of Admiral Raphael Semmes. The President thinks the parole given by Semmes to General Sherman upon the surrender of Johnston's army fully protects him, and that it would be a great breach of public faith to permit his trial by a court-martial for any act done before that parole was given.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Reform Bill is certainly in imminent danger. I do not believe that its most sanguine friends think now that it can possibly get through both Houses. It will, however, I fancy, survive the attack of Earl Grosvenor. This attack, I think, will be defeated by about twenty majority; but such a small majority will be decisive of the bill's fate in another place. If the Government could send it to the Lords with fifty more than half of the Commons at its back, the Earl of Derby might possibly, bold as he is, hesitate to recommend its rejection; but with only twenty he will not hesitate for a moment. I have said that Earl Grosvenor's motion will probably be defeated; but I am not sure that some amendment in Committee—such as a proposal to raise the borough franchise from £7 to £8, or the county from £14 to £20, may not be carried; and in either case I should imagine that the Government would abandon their bill.

And now let us consider what will happen if the bill should be thrown out. Some say that we shall have a dissolution; but I cannot believe that the Government will be so mad as to appeal to the country whilst Ireland is under the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. No; I will venture to assert that there will be no dissolution. I presume Earl Russell and his colleagues will resign. He has said that they will stand or fall by his bill; and this must mean resignation if the bill should be defeated. In that case Earl Derby will be sent for. He, of course, can no more think of a dissolution than Earl Russell; and, as there is a large majority in the Commons against a Conservative Government, the noble Earl will refuse to undertake the task of forming a Ministry. Then, possibly, there will be some attempts to form a Coalition Government; but these will all fail, and, in the end, we shall have the old Whig ship launched again, with the same crew and the same captain; unless, indeed, the rumour be true that his Lordship longs to retire altogether from public life, and means to take the earliest opportunity of so doing. In that case, I suppose, we shall have Gladstone Premier; and as the old ship will be lightened of the burden of reform, it may hang together for some years to come.

Earl Grosvenor's notice of motion took the House by surprise. It was known that he did not mean to support the bill, but few suspected that he would aim such a shot at it as this. He, as you know, is the eldest son of the Marquis of Westminster. He has been in Parliament nineteen years, but hitherto he has taken no prominent part in the debates. I do not remember that I have seen him upon his legs more than two or three times; but he can speak reasonably well when he likes. Of course, people outside imagine that the noble Earl's opposition to the bill is to be attributed to a dislike of its provisions. Well, it may be so; but certain cynical gossips assert that there is another and meaner motive at the bottom of this move. They whisper that the noble house of Grosvenor is jealous of the influence of certain other noble houses, and thinks that it has been rather neglected of late: in short, so say the gossips, the Grosvenors think that the Marquis of Westminster, considering his great wealth and influence, ought ere this to have been Duke of Westminster; and hence this insidious attack upon the bill and its authors. And there certainly is in the motion itself some evidence to prove that the noble Earl was not moved thereto by mere hatred of reform; for consider the terms of this motion:—He wishes the House to refuse to discuss a lowering of the franchise until the plan for redistributing the seats shall be laid before it. Does, then, the noble Earl wish for a more extensive reform than the bill proposes? It would seem so, from the terms of the motion; but it is well known that he professes to dislike all reduction of the franchise, under any circumstances. This motion, whatever may be the author's motive, certainly appears to me to be aimed at the Government rather than the bill.

Mr. Speaker is certainly very ill. The festering of the wound in his leg is not so much a cause of his ill-health as a consequence. If his general health had been sound this wound might, with due care, have been healed. There are, of course, many rumours flying about as to what is likely to happen as the result of his illness; notably one—i.e., that he will resign the speakership. He, however, I believe, has made no sign; he has a clear fortnight's holiday before him, and, if during that time he should recover his health, I suspect that he will not resign; but if, on the contrary, there should, on the 9th of April, appear to be no probability of his speedy recovery, he will no doubt feel bound to give up the chair. In that case he would go to the Upper House, probably as Viscount Ossington, with a pension. Who would be his successor nobody seems to be able to guess. Some hint at Bouverie, and he is certainly well qualified to take the place; others surmise that Walpole will be proposed, and that the Government will generously forego opposition. But it will be a new thing in politics if the Government select a candidate for this splendid prize merely because he is qualified, and I cannot bring my mind to believe that a Whig Ministry will be so generous as to allow it to be given to a Conservative opponent.

Four election petitions have been decided. Mr. Parry, the member for Boston, has been unseated, and Mr. Staniland, the old member, has got the seat. This decision does not make any change in the strength of the two political parties, as both gentlemen are Liberals. Sir Edmund Lacon and Mr. Goodson, the sitting (Conservative) members for Great Yarmouth, have been declared duly returned. The Bridgnorth Committee have cancelled the election of Sir John Acton, and given the seat to Mr. H. Whitmore. The Totnes election has been partly cancelled and partly declared valid; Mr. Pender being unseated for bribery and corruption, and Mr. William Seymour declared duly elected. The Committees for both Great Yarmouth and Totnes appended to their report an opinion that gross bribery and corruption had prevailed in these boroughs. Indeed, while speaking of election petitions, I may mention that the evidence taken before some of the Committees shows that corruption was even more rampant at the late election than ever before. At Yarmouth and Totnes, especially, the most unblushing bribery appears to have been practised; and on both sides, too. Witness after witness coolly admitted that sums had been received varying from £10 up to £50 and £60; and that demands had been made of such magnificent amounts as £100, £200, and even higher. Some electors confessed to having pocketed bribes from both sides, voting in the end, generally, for the highest bidder. One gentleman owned to receiving a sum of £14 or £15 from the Conservatives, and then voting for the Liberals, because "his principles went that way," and—because he got another £10 from them. He, of course, never had any intention of fulfilling his promise to the Conservatives. After such revelations, one can't help thinking that some measure to stop corruption at elections is as much wanted as an extension of the franchise. The Boston election appears to have been comparatively pure, only one case of bribery, I believe, having been alleged, and of that Mr. Parry was absolved of all knowledge.

A quaint relic of old London and its tavern life is about to undergo a change which will render its recognition difficult. "Don Saltero's" coffee-house, which has existed as an hotel for nearly two hundred years, is advertised to be leased under covenant to convert it into a private house. It is one of those quaint old Dutch-built mansions of the time of William III., behind the double avenue of elms on the bank of the Thames at Chelsea. It is mentioned by Steele, in No. 34 of the *Tatler*, as being then kept by one Salter, whose name Sir Richard humorously converted into Don Saltero. As coffee-house, hotel, and tavern it has maintained a reputation till within the last few years, when it degenerated into a beer-shop. Here Richard Cromwell, son of the great Protector, was wont to take his cheerful pipe and glass by the fireside. To the landlord Mr. Cromwell presented Oliver's sword, which was sold hence, with other curiosities (mostly fanciful), about fifty years ago. "The Don," says Steele, "shows you a straw hat, which I know to be made by Madge Peakad, within three miles of Bedford, and tells you it is Pontius Pilate's wife's chambermaid's sister's hat." Addison, Swift, Garrick, Hogarth, and a host of notabilities have, from time to time, sought companionship within the wainscoted walls of the "Old Don Saltero." Let us hope that the future proprietor may not be unmindful of its old associations.



OUASSENCO, A WEALTHY MERCHANT OF THE RIVER RAMBOÉ, SURROUNDED BY HIS WIVES.

THE FRENCH COLONY ON THE GABOON.

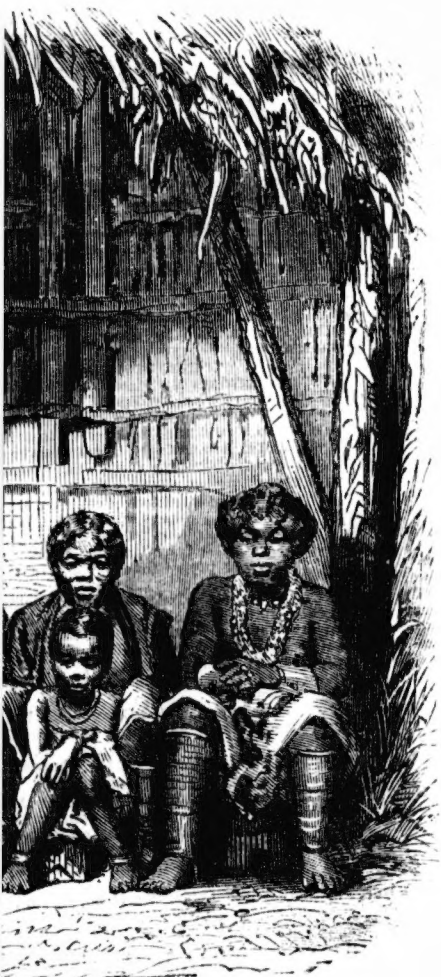
ANOTHER tribe of the remarkable people inhabiting the shores of the Gaboon are the Pahonins, who dwell further in the interior. In speaking of the Pahonins a very large family is included, of which the Fans form a considerable part. This tribe has preserved the distinctive character which distinguishes them from the other races of the Gaboon. Their foreheads are less depressed and their faces differ in expression; but the most remarkable feature in their appearance is that some of them have their heads compressed into the form of a sugarloaf, as may be seen in some of the women represented in our Engraving. This sign would seem to denote an inferior degree of intelligence, and yet these savages are in many

respects more ingenious than their neighbours; for instance, they understand how to extract iron from the ore, and show considerable dexterity in the use of tools for the manufacture of arms, which consist of lances, tomahawks, knives, hatchets, and arrows, some of the latter being poisoned. M. Du Chaillu says that these arrows are so light that they require to be rubbed with some kind of gum in order to retain their place upon the bow previous to being shot. The war-knives of the tribe, of which each savage carries two, are formidable arms; and, indeed, the Fans may be regarded as the most intelligent, and at the same time the most warlike, of the aboriginal races. The same ingenuity is exhibited in the pottery-ware and the musical instruments which are manufactured by

this tribe, the regularity of the former being very remarkable, when it is considered that they are completely ignorant of the invention of the wheel. The musical instruments are numerous, and include a sort of hunting-horn, a drum, and an instrument which they call a bandja, resembling our harmonicon. The bandja is formed of a light case of rosewood, about 3 ft. long, and 1½ ft. wide, in which is adjusted a series of empty calabashes, covered with slabs of hard wood. Each of these cylinders is of a different size, and they are so arranged as to form a regular scale of seven notes. The musician sits down with the instrument on his knees, and strikes the slabs lightly with a rod, producing a clear, mellow note, which is by no means disagreeable.

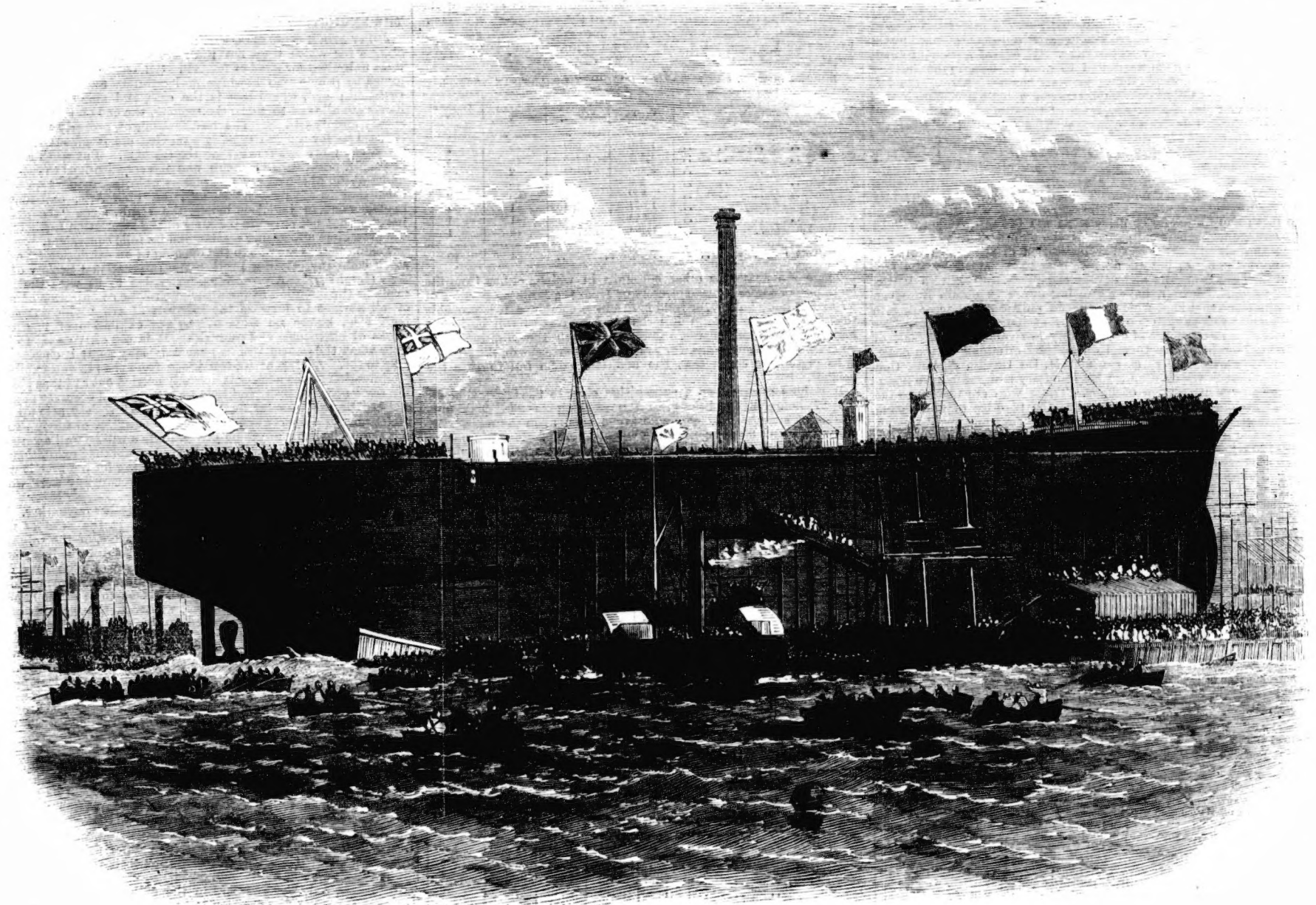


GENERAL VIEW OF THE COAST.—SEE PAGE 188.

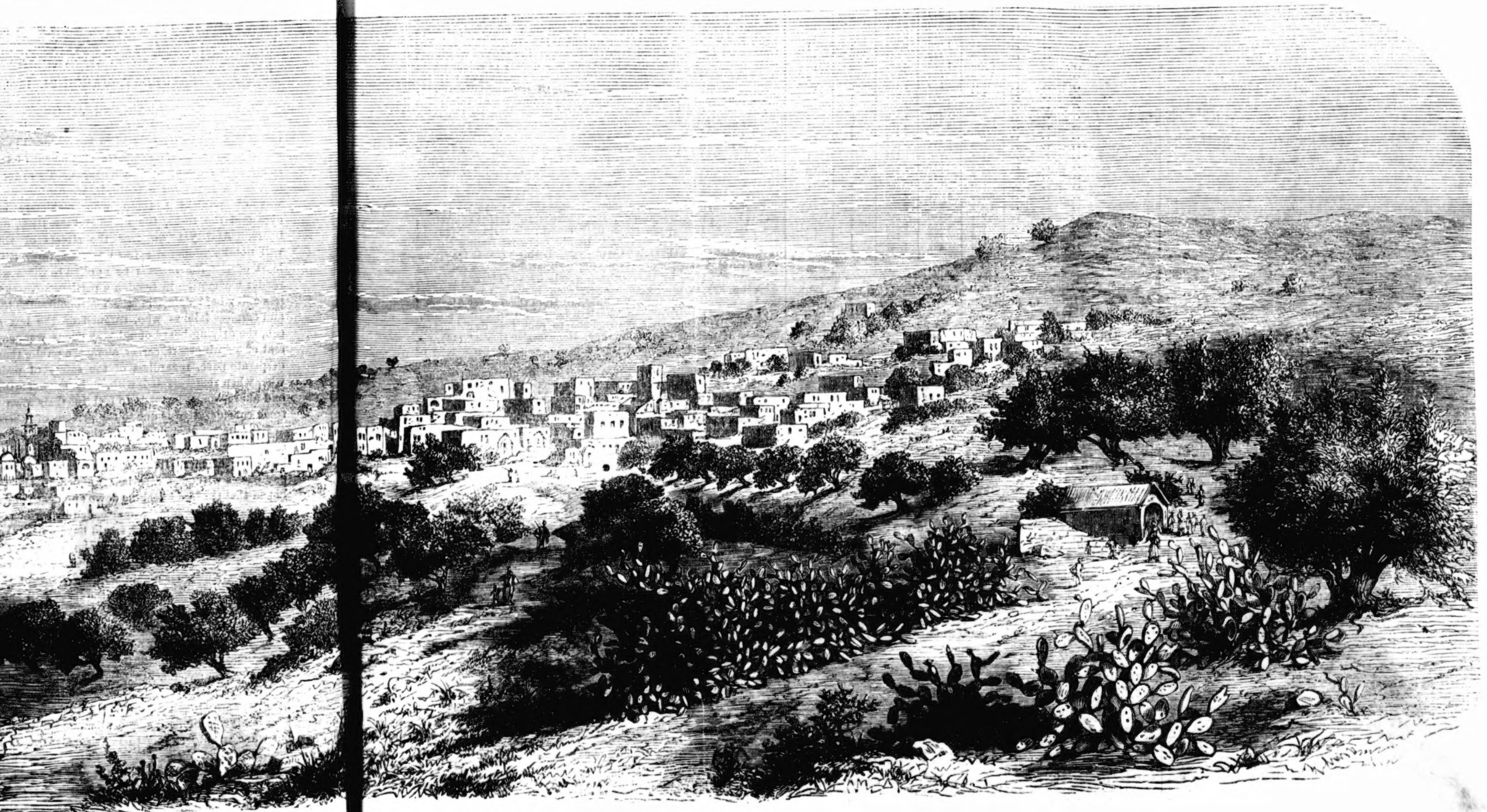


IVES.

the regularity of the former being very remarkable. It is considered that they are completely ignorant of the invention of the wheel. The musical instruments used, and include a sort of hunting-horn, a drum, and a trumpet which they call a bandja, resembling our baritone. The bandja is formed of a light case of rosewood, about 1½ ft. wide, in which is adjusted a series of empty tubes of a different size, and they are so arranged as to form a scale of seven notes. The musician sits down with the instrument on his knees, and strikes the slabs lightly with a rod, producing a clear, mellow note, which is by no means disagreeable.



THE NORTHUMBERLAND IRON-CLAD SHIP OF WAR.—SEE PAGE 189.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE TOWN.—SEE PAGE 188.

The Fans, like their neighbours, are polygamists; and this practice is a fruitful source of quarrels and murders. Their superstition is, probably, as dense as that of the tribes already mentioned, and they have a deeply-rooted belief in charms, amulets, and fetishes, even little infants being adorned with consecrated objects prescribed by the medicine-man or fetisher of the tribe. Of course a peculiar virtue is attached to talismans warranted to protect them in battle, and the principal of these charms is an iron chain worn over the left shoulder; while the next in importance is a little bag, worn round the neck or waist of a warrior, made of the skin of an animal, and containing the remains of others, such as the dried entrails, the claws, or the ends of their tails; shells, birds, feathers, and calcined bones. In the principal village of each of the Fan tribes is a colossal idol, with a temple, where at certain times in the year the people assemble for worship—the worship consisting mostly in singing and dancing. The temple of the idol is frequently crowned with the skulls of wild beasts, amongst which are those of go illas; and to remove or carry away any of these skulls would be a sacrilege for which death would be the punishment. It does not seem that slavery—that peculiar institution of the blacks—obtains amongst the Fans; but its absence may be explained by the fact that they are cannibals and devour the prisoners taken in battle. These people, however, have a growing desire to obtain European articles and provisions, which they can only obtain, according to the present vicious system of trade, by exchanging vast quantities of ivory for merchandise of considerably less value. The result of this has been to induce them to send their criminals to the coast, where they were sold as slaves, and M. Du Chaillu declares that latterly French vessels destined for voluntary emigrants have transported a large proportion of Fans. Those who are nearest to the coast have ceased to be cannibals; but the practice of man-eating has caused a wide separation between the Fans and the Pahonins, so that the tribes do not intermarry. There can be no doubt that a desire to rejoin a tribe which is on good terms with Europeans has been the reason for the abandonment of this horrible custom by the more warlike tribe.

For the last four or five years the ivory of the Fans has so greatly excited the cupidity of their neighbours that two or three chiefs have been willing to marry Fan women, while the Fans themselves, being so far removed from coveted European commerce, have been happy to conclude such relations with the people of the coast. Whatever may be the future destiny of the Pahonins and the Fans, it cannot be contested that these are at present the only people of Western Africa who are capable of playing any important part in the development of civilisation; for they alone possess that vital force which renders a race, although in a comparatively savage condition, willing to avail itself of foreign improvement.

VISIBLE SPEECH.

AT a meeting of the Society of Arts, last week, an account was given of a most remarkable invention, reports and rumours of which appeared some time ago in the Scotch newspapers, but without attracting much notice here. The inventor is Mr. Melville Bell, of Edinburgh, well known as a successful teacher of elocution and an investigator of the capacities of the human voice; and his invention consists of an alphabet of thirty signs, by means of which, and their various combinations, it is alleged, he is able to represent every sound of which the human voice is capable. The system has already won the most cordial approval of several distinguished philologists; and one of them, Mr. Ellis, well known for his researches into the subject of sound-representation, occupied the chair at the delivery of Mr. Bell's lecture on Wednesday evening. Marvellous and impossible as such a system may seem, it is only the truth to say that Mr. Bell demonstrated not only its possibility, but that he had invented an alphabet which could be used with considerable facility. The test was this:—A number of gentlemen present—all were invited to do the like—repeated to Mr. Bell sentences and phrases from a great variety of tongues—from the polished Arabic or Syriac, or Chinese, to the barbarous Hottentot and other savage languages, including several of our provincial dialects. These Mr. Bell wrote down in his alphabet, some of the sounds being such as he had not before heard, and his son, who had been in a room adjoining, was brought in and read the sounds which had been written with the most perfect exactness, rendering correctly the drawl or splutter of the various local dialects, and the scarcely appreciable refinements in pronunciation of other languages. The test was most varied and searching, and left no doubt on the minds of those present as to Mr. Bell's success. Various remarkable cases of the ease with which the system enabled the pronunciation of a foreign language to be taught were also related. The letters of his alphabet were not shown to the audience by Mr. Bell, who is desirous, before fully making known his secret, to get it introduced to the world with the authority of some learned body; and he has offered to submit it to the examination of the Council of the Society of Arts, with a view to its receiving their approval. In addition to its use in teaching pronunciation, the alphabet, in the opinion of the few who have been privileged to examine it, will be eminently suited for telegraphic purposes. It is a phonetic system which the most different people can make use of and understand; and for telegraphic wires passing through several countries it seems to solve the problem which is found so troublesome on our Indo-European line. To the science of comparative philology its services will perhaps be most striking. It has long been the despair of philologists to devise an alphabet which would represent the sounds of all and any languages for the purposes of comparison—an alphabet which might become a common one for travellers and missionaries exploring new regions or learning new languages, as well as for philological savans. That desideratum seems now supplied, and if the alphabet can be generally adopted it provides the means of stereotyping all the existing languages on the earth for the purposes of comparison and history. Without accepting all that is said in its favour, it is at least apparent that the system merits the most thorough scientific investigation, which we trust it will receive.

THE TIMBER DUTIES.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been written to by Messrs. Harrison, timber merchants, of Hull, in reference to the duties on wood. Mr. Gladstone replies himself that the Government intend to apply to Parliament for a remission of the duties on wood, and that, pending the decision of the House, the duty will be remitted from the 1st of April, on the merchants undertaking to pay the duty should Parliament subsequently require it.

LORD GROSVENOR'S AMENDMENT.—The following are the exact terms of the amendment which Earl Grosvenor intends to move on the second reading of the Reform Bill:—"That this House, while ready to consider, with a view to its settlement, the question of Parliamentary reform, is of opinion that it is inexpedient to discuss a bill for the reduction of the franchise in England and Wales until the House has before it the entire scheme contemplated by the Government for the amendment of the representation of the people."

ACCIDENTS.—Accidents by road, rail, and river, are so numerous that people have actually come to take them as matters of course, bestowing scarcely a thought upon them, except the subject be brought into notice by some more than ordinarily alarming catastrophe, or some frightful array of statistics dug out of the Registrar-General's returns. And yet, perhaps, there is hardly a street in or near London which has not been stained again and again with blood, spilt by what are in the habit of termed mischance, while the vast and varied list of sudden ills is swelled from every habitable spot in the country to an aggregate which is positively appalling. The records of insurance companies might be adduced as proofs of this statement, one company alone, the Accidental Death Insurance (now expanded into the Accidental and Marine Insurance Corporation), having paid, during a few years, rather more than a quarter of a million of money by way of compensation to those sufferers and their survivors who have placed themselves in connection with it. The number cut off or stricken down unregistered in such annals as these must be something awful to think of.

REVENUES OF AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.—The revenue of the colony of Victoria in 1865 amounted to £2,933,192, an increase of £81,479 over the previous year. This is £150,892 less than the estimate, owing chiefly to a decrease in the land revenue and the failure of the new tariff to become law. On the other hand, the railway income and some other items show a very satisfactory increase, and it is thought the Treasurer will not have to face Parliament with anything approaching a serious deficiency. The revenue of South Australia in 1865 was £1,089,247, an increase of £613,410 over the previous year. The exports of staple produce reached the value of £2,754,667, or £17 11s. 7d. per head, which is more than in any previous year, except 1864; the imports retained for consumption in the colony amounted to £2,562,407, an increase of £429,484 over the previous year. The population of South Australia at the end of 1865 was estimated at 156,704, an increase of 9,963 over the previous year. The revenue proper of Queensland in 1865 amounted to £631,432, as against £502,456 in 1864. These sums, however, include and orders received at the Treasury in return for the grants of land which they represent; not reckoning these, the actual revenue proper for the year amounts to £472,461, against £369,425 for 1864, the increase being £103,036, or at the rate of 28 per cent. nearly. The Customs' revenue for the year has yielded £195,540, against £153,341 for 1864, the increase being £42,199, or at the rate of 27 per cent. The estimated revenue from this source was £200,000, and an additional £18,000 from the amended tariff; the actual receipts have, therefore, fallen short of the estimated receipts by upwards of £22,000. In New South Wales the actual expenditure of the year 1865 amounted to £1,738,603; the revenue was equal to the expenditure, and left a small surplus.

ELECTORAL STATISTICS.

THE following is an attempt to show the probable effects of the Reform Bill in causing a preponderance of the working-class element in boroughs. There are already eight boroughs in which, according to the recent return, the artisan electors are in the majority. These are enumerated in the following table:—

BOROUGH WHICH NOW HAVE A MAJORITY OF ARTISAN VOTERS.

Boroughs.	Voters.	Artisan Voters.	Liberal Members.	Conservative Members.
Beverley	1,239	662	—	2
Coveytry	4,967	3,468	—	2
Greenwich	9,805	5,169	2	—
Ives, St.	486	248	—	1
Maldon	859	479	—	2
Newcastle-under-Lyme ..	1,077	589	1	1
Safford	1,540	888	1	1
Pembroke	1,433	776	—	1
Totals			4	10

There are numerous other boroughs in which, either from the large proportion of artisan electors or from the large proportion of £7 to £10 householders, or from both causes combined, it is probable that by the new Reform Bill the working classes will be in the majority. In some places, however, though the additional £7 voters would be numerous, the proportion of artisans on the register is at present so small that the addition would fail to turn the balance.

It is here assumed, as a supposition close to the truth, that all the £7 householders belong to the working classes. The proportion of such householders who would come upon the register is, probably, about 80 per cent of the whole number. It appears from the returns that the actual number of £10 voters, plus those who are at present disfranchised by the rate-paying proviso which is proposed to be abolished, is 80 per cent of the whole number of £10 householders; and it may be presumed that the same proportion would be maintained with respect to the new qualification.

Consequently the number of new £7 voters in the under-mentioned boroughs will be about one fifth less than the number of householders here given:—

BOROUGH WHICH WILL PROBABLY HAVE A MAJORITY OF ARTISAN VOTERS.

Boroughs.	£7 to £10 Householders.	Present Artisan Electors.	Present total of Voters.	Liberal Members.	Conservative Members.
Birkenhead	1,341	2,065	4,563	—	1
Birmingham	14,959	2,883	14,997	2	—
Bolton	2,070	467	2,186	1	1
Bridgewater	368	284	644	1	1
Bristol	4,111	4,051	11,303	2	—
Bury	1,093	218	1,352	—	—
Cambridge	932	499	1,769	—	2
Canterbury	1,032	516	1,603	—	2
Chatham	1,333	970	2,104	1	—
Chester	538	987	2,274	2	—
Colchester	563	560	1,405	1	1
Derby	2,502	689	2,450	1	1
Dudley	1,252	247	1,358	1	—
Durham	245	415	1,056	1	1
Gateshead	1,076	110	1,165	1	—
Guildford	263	229	667	1	1
Hastings	298	807	1,871	1	1
Hythe	446	428	1,291	1	—
Kingston-on-Hull	4,482	918	5,566	2	—
Lancaster	596	663	1,465	2	—
Lincoln	998	772	1,713	2	—
Marblehead	763	80	861	1	1
Maldstone	991	802	1,817	2	—
Manchester	15,130	5,822	21,542	—	2
Marlborough	81	99	275	—	2
Monmouth	571	834	2,087	—	2
Newcastle-upon-Tyne ..	3,939	1,559	6,630	2	—
Newport	327	219	643	1	1
Northampton	1,900	1,249	2,620	2	—
Nottingham	4,018	2,342	5,934	2	—
Oldham	4,083	315	2,285	2	—
Oxford	971	1,252	2,594	1	1
Peterborough	609	143	641	2	—
Portsmouth	5,040	1,266	4,670	2	—
Preston	2,612	540	2,562	—	2
Rochester	801	539	1,458	2	—
Rye	354	53	373	1	—
Salford	4,975	1,806	5,397	1	—
Shrewsbury	563	497	1,553	2	—
Southampton	624	2,084	4,189	1	1
South Shields	540	260	1,113	1	—
Southwark	3,339	5,515	11,631	2	—
Sunderland	2,938	606	3,468	1	1
Walsall	2,146	217	1,296	1	—
Warrington	627	149	768	—	1
Wigan	808	205	863	1	1
Wolverhampton	6,726	1,244	4,830	1	—
Worcester	1,421	861	2,309	2	—
Beaumaris	241	180	558	1	—
Cardiff	682	775	2,072	1	—
Cardiff	519	152	791	1	—
Cardiff	1,463	461	1,967	1	—
Totals				63	25

This list closely agrees with that given by Lord Cranbourne in the debate in the House of Commons, except that the present list includes one or two cases omitted, and omits one included in his Lordship's list. The difference may be due to a slightly different method of computation.

The result is very instructive. It tends to mitigate, on the one hand, the apprehension that the extension of the suffrage would give a preponderance of poor electors in small and venal boroughs; and, on the other hand, that it would materially affect the balance of parties by democratising a large number of Conservative constituencies. The number of small boroughs now containing less than 800 voters, in which there would be created a majority of artisan voters, is only ten. The number of purely Conservative constituencies which would be democratised is only thirteen. It is true that as many as forty-two seats of Conservative members would be affected by the process; but the balance of political parties would probably not be altered to nearly that extent; for, in the first place, some of these seats are for small boroughs in which the same local and personal influence would continue to prevail as at present; and, secondly, it is shown by the first of the foregoing lists that a large infusion of the democratic element by no means necessarily implies a Conservative minority. Also in at least ten large boroughs—viz., Birkenhead, Cambridge, Colchester, Devonport, Dover, Durham, Hastings, Southampton, York, and Pembroke—which return Conservative members, the proportion of artisan electors is even now above the average, and in some is nearly half the constituency.

Liberal Conservatives have been reckoned as Conservatives; but, as some of these would frequently vote with the Liberals, the table somewhat over-estimates the number of Conservative seats affected by the proposed measure.—*Telegraph.*

MORTALITY IN SCOTTISH TOWNS.—The mortality of Paisley in the year 1865 was at the rate of 20.9 per thousand of estimated population; of Leith, 25.2; of Aberdeen, 26.3; of Perth, 26.9; of Edinburgh, 27.8; of Dundee, 31.1; of Glasgow, 32.8; of Greenock, 35.7. The mortality of the year was above the average; in the eight towns taken together it was 30.7 per thousand in 1865, 31.4 in 1864, 27.4 on an average of the nine years 1855-63. In 1865 the deaths of children under five years of age were 72 per thousand of the estimated population in Aberdeen, 75 in Perth and Leith, 84 in Edinburgh and Paisley, 104 in Dundee, 109 in Glasgow, 115 in Greenock. The number of children under five years of age in the eight towns is estimated at 123,305 in the middle of the year 1865, and the deaths under five years of age in the year were 12,160, so that the children were very nearly decimated in the year. In the period 1860-5 the average annual mortality of children under five years of age exceeded decimation. This result is due to the Glasgow, Greenock, and Dundee returns; in all these places the average mortality of children under five exceeded 100 in the thousand.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY (LIMITED).

JOINT STOCK companies, with limited liability, are, as regards the objects for which they are professionally incorporated, instruments most unlimited for good or for evil. Such associations are too often joined by people who hope for an inordinate return for a small investment; and, where this is the case, and many such grasping hands are allowed to finger the moneys, the end of the enterprise is speedy and disastrous. The bird that might, properly managed, be induced to lay golden eggs, is strangled ere it passes the gosling stage—and the lawyers get all the feathers. But when a number of people, not wealthy enough, and too conscientious to support an undertaking of the sort on other terms, unite to promote a speculation calculated to advance, let us say, the Fine Arts, and leave the management in judicious hands, the result, since "the gods are just," is that not only are the aims of the association furthered, but the promoters also gather credit—and its solid equivalent.

These remarks are due to the opening of an exhibition by a joint-stock company, styling itself "The International Society of Fine Arts (Limited)." A prospectus, forwarded to us with the ticket, explains the intention of the association—the co-operation of artists of all nations to forward the interests of art, "which, it can be truly said, knows no frontier," by the exhibition of meritorious works of all schools and countries. It is too early as yet to judge as to what the society will do; what it may do, if it chooses, it is easy to see. As far as we can judge from the present exhibition, the intention of the society is honestly carried out as far as possible. We say "as far as possible," because a superficial observer might be inclined to ask how far an "international" society acts up to its professions by a first exhibition consisting entirely of foreign works. But those who know anything of the studios will be well aware that, at this time of the year, with all the old-established exhibitions, the Royal Academy among others, almost waiting for pictures, it would be impossible for the new association to procure any work worthy of exhibition.

A glance at the list of directors is not altogether reassuring. Lord Ranelagh, the president, figures, we fancy, at the head of many directorates, and knows more, one would suppose, of the volunteers who "draw a bead" than of the artists who draw a line; while Mr. Le Neve Foster, dating from the Society of Fine Arts, dates from a place where too many shams and failures can give an address. Nevertheless, the actual management seems to be in the hands of experienced and earnest people, and, we trust, the interests of the Fine Arts are too deeply rooted to be easily grubbed up by guinea-pigs.

The room selected for the exhibition is No. 48, Pall-mall, where the female artists whilom displayed their works, and to whose limits they would have done well to confine their efforts, leaving the gallery of Architects in Conduit-street open to the International Society. Since the ladies deserted it, the lighting of the room has been greatly improved; for, although the 18th (the private view-day) was gloomy, the pictures suffered but little.

As we have already stated, the English school is not represented at this exhibition—and rightly. The masters being all occupied on their Academy pictures, it was well the school should not be represented by inferior hands where the Belgian, Dutch, French, and Italian schools hold their own so well. It is to be regretted, perhaps, that no effort was made to secure a few English works in water colour; the difficulty we have mentioned would not have stood in the way of so doing; and it is in water colour, if in anything, that our native artists can challenge their foreign rivals with any advantage.

Undoubtedly the best picture in the gallery is Alma Tadema's "Cicero" (2). We had occasion last year to call attention to some of this artist's splendid work in Mr. Gambart's exhibition; but for vigour displayed without exaggeration, and effect obtained without straining, they must yield place to this notable picture. The great orator is seated at a small table, composing an oration—which he tries the effect of by reciting to himself as he sets it down. Close to his right hand is a cupboard which we may call his library, containing those antique "four-tubs" in which manuscripts were kept, and which we should call *serinia*, if it were not that it is not Ciceronian Latin. There is a truth about the picture which not merely scholars will admit, while there is a quality of colour which few but artists will appreciate fully. Gallat's portrait of "M. Du Mortier, Member of the Chamber of Belgian Representatives" (12) must rank with Tadema's picture. The reputation of this great artist, which has been somewhat injured in England by the injudicious choice made of pictures for exhibition here, will be more fairly adjusted by this noble portrait. There is nothing sensational or dramatic about it, but it appeals at once to the intellect and to the art-perception. "The Fencing School" (20), by Serrare, may fairly claim a mention early in our notice. A delightful eye for colour has combined with good drawing and a mastery of textural expression to render this one of the pictures to linger over in the gallery.

Eugene Smitz is a clever colourist who lacks an eye for beauty and is loose in his composition. His "Innocenza" (21) is charming; his "Cecily" (22) spoilt by an ugly model; his "Rome" (23), in spite of much clever handling, hardly more interesting than a fashion-plate. Staelaert's "Catullus and Lesbia" (25) is too tricky to be entirely satisfactory; and the "Departure of the Bride and Bridegroom" (19), by Lambrechts, is spoilt by the hideous mother, who, no less in beauty than expression, reminds us of Colonel Stodare's Sphinx. Huysman's "Return from the Flower Market" (16) is pretty; Dell'Acqua's "Eastern Lady" (6) a pleasant study.

Of the landscapes, we are inclined to rank first, as a delicious exercise of harmony in a low key, Haneodes' "Heath" (14). A grey and cloudy sky overhangs a heath, whose general tone of brown in the distance is disintegrated in the foreground, where russet struggles with steely green on slopes of grey sand; while a brooklet, meandering among the rushes, repeats in a minor the key of blue from the snatches of sky overhead. Van Moer—a self-taught artist, son of a blacksmith, and by trade an ivory-carver—contributes some excellent pictures, chiefly of Venice, and yet (strange to say of a "self-taught" man) entirely uninfluenced by Canaletto. "La Piazzetta" (34) is a rare example of architectural perspective; and there is fine sunlight in his "Chapel of San Zeno" (33). A view in "The Campine, Belgium" (17), by Keelhoff, if one of the least ambitious and worst placed of the pictures in the gallery, is one of the most deserving. Fourmois has two good pictures—"The Mill" (8) and "The Valley of the Gressivand" (9). The distance is well painted in Achard's "Dauphiné" (1), and there is much to admire in Francia's "Lagunes" (11) and his somewhat "foreignised" view of "Borrowdale" (10). Huberti's "Souvenir de Modave" (15), though slight, is clever; and Clays, Stroobant, and Verschuur are all worthy of notice. Of the clear, metallic painting of Verboeckhoeven we have discoursed often enough.

Among the water-colour artists we meet again, and with pleasure, Dell'Acqua, in his "Poem" (43), and Van Moer, especially in his "Atrio of St. Marc" (57). "A Flemish Farm" (44), by Gabriel, is a remarkably clever work; and Stortenbecker's "Pasture" (54) an exceedingly meritorious study from nature.

We may also draw attention to drawings (63-65) by Puttaert and "A Storm on the Heaths Near Spa" (59), by De Kuyff.

Altogether the exhibition is a most laudable one, and promises well. Properly conducted, the society may become invaluable to art—in its broadest sense, and not merely the interests of painters or picture-dealers; conducted badly, it will be most injurious. We shall watch it with an interest none the less friendly that it is vigilant; for, should it do well, we shall be able the earlier to declare its deserts and assist in its triumph. It is either a courageous adventure for good ends or a worthless bubble.

SOME INGENIOUS THIEVES have found a way of plundering pillar letter boxes. A bag fitted with a spring is adjusted into the slit of the box, and into this instead of into the proper receptacle the letters which are posted fall. A postman found one of these ingenious appliances in a pillar-post near Belgrave-square on Saturday last. The spring had broken or become disordered, so that the bag could not be withdrawn.

Literature.

Faith Unwin's Ordeal. By GEORGINA M. CRAIK, Author of "Riverston," "Winifred's Wooing," and "Lost and Won." 2 vols. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is by no means a common book. The story, simple almost to scantiness, is well conceived and unaffectedly and carefully told. Faith Unwin, the "heroine," is a really good full-length portrait; the mother-in-law is not so full, but still well painted. Walter, the husband, is not bad, though he is not a full-length. Worst of all is George Erskine, the cousin, whom, no doubt, the authoress would have been glad to draw better than any of the other characters. However, he is, in truth, a shadow. Miss Craik tells us what he is, but she does not show him to us.

The writing, we have already said, may be praised. But, for the most part, the dialogue is bad, being constructed on what may be called the antiphonal principle; but people don't talk like that in ordinary life. One dialogue, indeed—the dialogue in the last chapter between the wife and the mother-in-law—is natural and good. There is no scene-painting; a thing of which we do not complain; but there is a certain aridity or coldness which reminds us of the writing of the author of "John Halifax." Miss Craik has, however, more subtlety than that admirable novelist, while she is, undoubtedly, inferior to her in power of distinctively creating character, and still more in variety. In fluency, also, Miss Craik must take a somewhat lower rank; though here, again, there is a curious resemblance—neither of these two novelists has a pleasant, flowing manner. Both of them, again, have a curious and not wholly attractive facility in describing character in which there is a superfluous touch of hardness. As a novelist, we think Miss Craik much superior to the elder writer with whom we have slid into comparing or contrasting her. She sees farther, and makes a much nearer approach to presenting life truly. We beg her to accept our sincere congratulations upon the fidelity and courage she has thrown into this book. The questions raised in it are those raised in three fourths of the novels now written, and some of the poems; and, instead of this being, as cynics, triflers, or pharisees would make out, a sign of growing demoralisation, it is a sign that in the tremendously-increased complexities of human character certain facts have drifted away from the names by which we call them. Here lies the "burden grievous to be borne" of this generation: honour to those who touch it though but with a finger; much honour to those who touch it with so much ability, moderation, and truthfulness as Miss Craik has done in "Faith Unwin's Ordeal." It is sufficiently plain that she has not quite satisfied herself; nor could she have satisfied herself under the conditions which were inevitable to the case; but what she has done, she has done well.

Faith Unwin is an Australian girl, not rich and not high-bred, who meets Walter Erskine (he being both) on board ship upon a homeward voyage with her father. The ship takes fire, and Faith and Walter are thrown together in a boat during several days of peril. The father dies, and Faith marries Walter—but reluctantly; for she does not love him as much as she is conscious of being able to love a man. Walter, too, is not blameless. He conceals from her the fact that he has a very jealous, worldly mother (a disgusting old wretch this mother is, though the authoress handles her very mildly); and also that he has riches and "position." The last concealment may not seem a wrong; but this is one of the very points in relation to which we find Miss Craik so admirable. We have no right to determine for others what kind or degree of untruthfulness will injure them—that is their business; our own business is to be honest, the best-intentioned fraud may prove a deadly wrong. We shall not, however, follow out the story. Suffice it to say that the mother-in-law hates the young wife, and that many a poor soul has been hanged for a fraction of the wickedness she is guilty of. A fine, brave cousin of Walter's comes upon the scene. He, Walter, and Faith are constantly together, and the result—may be guessed. A spark is struck in each of two breasts, and in each it smoulders on for some time, without either having the least suspicion of its existence. It never bursts into flame; and no harm at all might have come of it if it had not been for the wicked old mother-in-law. She sees a chance of (what such a base, worldly heart would call) regaining her son's affection—though she had never lost a grain of it—and interferes in such a way as to turn a danger into a wrong by waking it up to self-consciousness. Here, again, we must hand the reader over to the book for the rest of the story. Suffice it to say that, with the finest tact, or rather with something finer than tact, Miss Craik keeps the crown on Faith Unwin's head up to the very last, and leaves us much in love with an honest, spirited little woman, whom at first we began to dislike. We have sincere pleasure in commending the book to a large circulation.

Unconventional. A Novel. By THOMAS SUTTON, B.A., Editor of "Photographic Notes," &c. Three volumes. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

Mr. Sutton's first novel may claim to be one of the most daring and original of the season. It is scarcely charging a fault to say that it is almost too full of romantic and artistic reading; but it is crowded with something of almost everything to an extent which suggests the idea that the author may have exhausted his varied resources "at one fell swoop." That, however, is not the case; for, in the last line of the third volume, there is a threat of another book, concerning a twelve years' experience of Australia. In that some condensation of scenery and subject may be expected; in the present case such a process has been carefully avoided. The scenery includes London and Paris, Cambridge, the south-west of England, the Channel Islands, Brittany, and the West Indies; whilst a glimpse at European travelling seems to be thrown in, and Panama is barely escaped. The subjects may be most briefly explained by saying that there is nothing about medicine and surgery. The characters are equally numerous and varied. The story has romantic interest; but, as usual in such cases, is remarkable for being ludicrously impossible. We shall certainly not attempt to tell it. The prominent figure is a rather youthful Greek Jew, named Xenosthes, who seems to be always trying (and failing) to persuade us that there is something of Sionia in him; but who is in reality far more like the Count of Monte Christo or Paul Jones, with a strong colouring of the bully and the murderer in addition. This compound character has boundless wealth, and no more hesitates to give away any sum, from ten thousand pounds up to fifty thousand, than did the host in Swift's "Polite Conversation" to say "Hang expense! give us a ha'porth of cheese." He is a sublime villain, who can be very generous. He is also very licentious and very revengeful, and actually keeps a wicked French Marquis and some others to carry out his shameful aims and ends. For amusement, he is a clever artist and photographer; and he employs the foreign scamps in his pay to entice for him female models—who are made to lead not exactly model lives. These scenes take place close to the University of Cambridge, where attempted murders appear to be as common as mathematics. Subsequently, the wicked old Marquis carries on the same game in France, and notably with Nelly May, the attractive heroine of the story. When we say that there is an equally excellent hero, a mother, two maiden ladies who keep a school, some artists, and a host of young Cambridge men, the variety of style may be imagined, and no more need be said of the actual story.

From a photographer something about photography was to be expected; but it is strange to find it running fully through the whole story. And, however right Mr. Sutton may be in his criticisms on the uses of the varieties of photography and their reference to art, and however right he may be as to the infamously indecent uses to which photographers degrade their science—and there we must allow him to be the better judge—we cannot think that the photographic scenes in "Unconventional" are calculated, with all their loudly-shouted morality, to do any good. Immorality is not a good conductor of morality. The few pages on the arts of painting, sculpture, and architecture are in better taste;

but long pages of boys' discussions about the Southern secession will not go so far to settle that still vexed question. In face of Mr. Sutton's assertion, in his own character, that spiritualism, dreaming, &c., are all nonsense, it is strange that his character, Xenosthes, should have four complicated dreams, one after another, all on the same occasion, and that subsequently all should come true. In a religious conversation, provided the instance be true, there is a passage which will have interest for many readers. The speaker has studied many parishes, and finds, "in all cases, the preaching of Calvinistic doctrines was accompanied by a degraded state of morals in the parish—by drunkenness, dishonesty, and want of self-respect, and other mean vices, to a degree which was the worst of any." This is worth consideration.

Less serious, but far more pleasant, are the spirited boating and yachting scenes, in which the author appears to be quite at home; and also the swimming scenes, in which the French plan of costume and association are strongly recommended. All this is sometimes sensible enough; and, like many miscellaneous chapters, will please highly, by being, as Mr. Sutton's title imports, quite free from conventionality, whilst it is full of gaiety and good-humour.

The Grahames of Bessbridge House, Dyddorburgh. By Mrs. TRAFFORD WHITEHEAD. Two vols. London: Chapman and Hall.

As the straw thrown up shows which way the wind blows, "The Grahames" may be taken as an indication of a very good windfall of fiction. It is neither great nor original; but the coolest mind would scarcely finish the evening without finishing the story. The chapters are short and varied, and yet the story runs as naturally as number one leads to number ten. There is no looking back, and the whole proceeds with the easy celerity of a railway train. This is intended to be high praise; but, at the same time, some trifling defects ought to be mentioned. The first part of the story should have been omitted, or mentioned briefly in narrative, and not given in several dramatic chapters. Many of the characters in whom readers must take some kind of interest receive no more attention when the book is closing than a cat gets on going out of the kitchen. Indeed, the heroine, who tells the story, has herself almost always in view; and every page in the two volumes might be framed as a looking-glass. However, as the picture, or reflection, is pretty, this does not much matter. The story of "The Grahames" is of a love-match against worldly circumstances. A very wealthy gentleman, a widower, marries the housekeeper and governess, who is young, graceful, and ladylike in every way; and who, in her early years, has been an heiress ruined by a trustee. All the love-making passages are felt rather than described or spoken; but the reader knows exactly what is going on—as in "Jane Eyre" and "Shirley." But for those two wonderful stories, the many passages of love-making in "The Grahames" would entitle the work to a high place in modern fiction. Without a direct word, Mary Martin lets all her readers know her fondness for Grahame; whilst Grahame talks and reasons with the girl, and acquires influence over her, until there can be no doubt of the real state of the case, just as the dénouement in "Shirley" is brought about; but the strength and influence, as far as sex goes, are altered or modified, rather than reversed. The humorous scenes are not of a high order; but the meanness and the ruffianism are touched with a very forcible hand—for a lady. In addition to merits already mentioned, the book is not too long. Many consumers of light articles could devour it at a sitting, and even follow the example of Oliver Twist in asking for more. The ladies will like it, especially for its stern addition to their own style. The principal events invariably occur on "a lovely evening"—the brooks will warble—the glades will be verdant—and, so surely as woman and man get together, the fair tresses of one will mingle with the raven curls of the other. On the other hand, there is no mention of anybody's costume or complexion. Madame Laure and Mr. Poole are nowhere, and Madame Rachel is abandoned "for ever," as she would say. And there is no mention of "Mary, with her woman's perception"—the favourite observation of lady-novelists, who seem to think, by noting the exception, that the rule is for gentlemen to have the perception of ladies. "The Grahames," which must be taken for a first attempt, is unusually satisfactory.

Miss Crosby's Matchmaking. A Novel. Edited by MAINE O'HARA. London: S. O. Beeton.

We have greatly enjoyed the reading of this amusing story, which is, in the best sense of the phrase, "very Irish." Miss Crosby herself is a splendid specimen of the chatty, egotistic, gossiping, match-making old maid, not a bit soured by personal disappointment, and cherishing an intense regard for "Edward's" memory. Who "Edward" was we are not told, further than that he saved Miss Crosby's life—when she was young, of course—and that, as he was pre-engaged and married another, she had nothing but the thought of him to feed her heart with. It seems to have sufficed, however, to keep it green and kindly. Letty Forrester is a perfect gem of a frolicsome, untamable, "wild Irish girl," who is ever outraging conventional proprieties, but is thoroughly good and sound at the core. The way in which she gives the rebuff to "jackanapes" Captain Harry Mortimer is splendid. Had we been behind the curtain, as Miss Crosby was, during the scene, we could not have refrained from uttering a hearty "hurrah!" as the discomfited captain was made to beat an ignominious retreat. All the other characters are well drawn, and the interest is well sustained throughout. Miss Crosby's style will be sure to attract the reader from the first page, and will please him to the last. A very clever book, indeed, and a refreshing.

The Three Fenian Brothers. By an Irishman. London: Macmillan and Co.

This is a clever little story, written with a purpose which we fear it will not serve, as happens to most books of its kind. The purpose is to show the folly of Fenianism and the want of faith and honesty among many Fenians. All that we knew before; but will the poor dupes who really do believe in Fenianism be any jot affected by our Irishman's labours? We doubt it. When passion and prejudice reign, and not sober judgment, neither tale, rhyme, nor reason will have much influence. Passion, made innocuous for mischief, must be left to burn itself out; and prejudice can only be corrected by experience. So, we fear, it will have to be with Fenianism; and the little book before us, though well meant and even tolerably well executed, will meet a fate many similar efforts have done before—it will be sneered at or neglected; and yet it deserves a better reception. If Fenians would but read and think, an "Irishman's" labours might not be in vain. But—bah! what's the use of talking?

Moxon's Miniature Poets: Byron. London: Moxon and Co.

"Moxon's Miniature Poets" is a series which must by this time be well known to the book-buying, and especially to the book-presenting, public. Few series have ever been published so well adapted for the latter purpose as this. The poets are generally well chosen, the selections judiciously made, and the get-up of the books is unexceptionable. Well printed on fine paper, nicely illustrated, and effulgent in crimson-and-gold bindings—in short, excellent matter in an elegant case—what more could be desired in a book, whether designed as a present or as an ornament for the drawing-room table? The present volume includes "Childe Harold," "The Giaour," "Don Juan," "Manfred," "The Deformed Transformed," "The Vision," and other larger poems, besides a host of minor pieces. Of course, a selection is never as good as a whole, and we like to have such poets as Byron complete; still, if a selection must be made, the present is, perhaps, as good a one as was possible, though we do miss some favourite pieces. A preface is contributed by the editor, Mr. Swinburne, which is well written and interesting, though exception might be taken to some of the opinions advanced, and, more frequently still, to the manner in which they are stated. On the whole, however, the book leaves little to be desired.

Travelling Sketches. By ANTHONY TROLLOPE. (Reprinted from the *Pall Mall Gazette*.) London: Chapman and Hall.

The literature of newspapers and magazines begins to walk alone very quickly. Not many years since a modest collection of what used to be called "Fugitive Pieces" was a novelty; and perhaps anything modest in these days would be a novelty also. Mr. Trollope is in no way behindhand with the new custom, and his series of eight "Travelling Sketches" forms a pleasant companion to his "Hunting Sketches," and will surely find more favour. He is fond of travelling; and even has high respect for the family that goes abroad, because it is the thing to do. The Man who Travels Alone and the Unprotected Female Tourist are humorous sketches; but surely Mr. Trollope is too severe upon the class of fine young Englishmen who travel for the mere fun of the thing. The tourist for art and for knowledge, as well as those who don't like their travels, are very properly exposed; and, in a lament over the Matterhorn accident, Mr. Trollope trusts that it will not affect the climbing propensities of our countrymen. In our opinion, danger is, and courage should be, everywhere.

Cast Away on the Auckland Isles. A Narrative of the Wreck of the Grafton, and of the Escape of the Crew after Twenty Months' Suffering. From the Private Journals of Captain THOMAS MUSGRAVE. Together with some Account of the Auckland Islands. Edited by JOHN J. SHILLINGLOW, F.R.S. London: Lockwood and Co.

This neat volume is the narrative of the wreck, on the Auckland Isles, of the schooner Grafton, Captain Musgrave, in 1863. The narrative, as stated on the titlepage, is from Captain Musgrave's private journals, and is given, in a large measure, in the form of a diary or "log." This necessarily gives the book somewhat of a formal air, but the story will, nevertheless, be found highly interesting, and will satisfy the reader that the commander of the unfortunate vessel was not only a thorough seaman and gallant fellow, but a well-educated gentleman, who did his duty as a British sailor should, and tells his story as a gentleman ought. The book is well worth perusal besides for the information it contains of these isles.

The Adventures of Gil Blas of Santillane. Translated from the French of Le Sage by Tobias Smollett. London: Routledge and Co.

Messrs. Routledge have worthily followed up their admirable edition of "Don Quixote," noticed by us some time ago, by issuing an equally excellent edition of Smollett's translation of "Gil Blas." All we said in praise of Messrs. Routledge's "Don" is merited by their "Gil"; and we are sure all admirers—and who are not?—of both works, and who are not already furnished with copies, will at once avail themselves of the opportunity now afforded of obtaining these wonderful performances in a neat and convenient shape, and at a very small outlay. If they do not, they will be greatly to blame: the money could not be better invested.

Odds and Ends. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas.

Messrs. Edmonston and Douglas continue to issue from time to time their excellent series of papers called "Odds and Ends." The latest numbers that have come to hand are "The Cattle Plague," by Professor Lyon Playfair, of Edinburgh; and "Rough Nights' Quarters," by "One of the People Who Have Roughed It." In the former we have much valuable information on the subject of the prevalent disease among cattle; and in the latter the "Amateur Casual's" experiences in Lambeth are dwelt upon and illustrated by roughing it in Indian military quarters. The gist of this article seems to be that, barring the dirt and blackguardism, the soldier on duty has as disagreeable experiences as the casual in Lambeth Workhouse, and that a preferable plan would be to provide "decent places of refuge for those who have no other shelter and who would prefer clean, rough nights' quarters anywhere out of a workhouse in any honest company, if they can only get them for love, money, or labour." In reference to the cattle plague, we may mention that we have received a little brochure entitled "Remarks on Rinderpest," by Charles Bell, M.D., which seems well worth perusal by those specially interested in the subject.

Awake or Dreaming? A Dog Story. Written and Illustrated by the Brothers Wagtail. London: Day and Son.

This is a nicely got-up book for children. It is well written, prettily illustrated, and beautifully printed—in fact, a perfect gem of a book, which we heartily commend to all our young friends, who, as we have more than once remarked before, but may again repeat, are fortunate in being able to obtain such helps to study. No such books were to be had when we were young and curly, like them—the lucky rogues! The work, we believe, is the production of a lady; the "Brothers Wagtail" being fictitious (feathered) personages.

THE SCHEME FOR RELIEVING THE NATIONAL DEBT OF ITALY.—Subscriptions to the fund raising in Italy for paying off the national debt continue to pour in from every part of the kingdom, and the enthusiasm the project has excited appears to pervade all classes of society. The King has subscribed for a million of francs; Prince Humbert for a hundred thousand francs; Prince Amadeus for sixty thousand; Prince di Carignano for fifty thousand; the Bank of Naples for a million and a half; the municipality of Naples for half a million; that of Siena for two hundred thousand, &c. Several millions have already been subscribed, and it is thought that a hundred millions will soon be reached.

THE G. V. BROOKE LIFE BOAT.—The National Life Boat Institution has decided on placing the G. V. Brooke Life-boat at Lyme Regis, a dangerous point on the coast of Dorset. It will, probably, be remembered that Mr. Brooke unfortunately perished with 219 others on board the steam-ship London in the Bay of Biscay during a fearful storm on the 11th of January last. Mr. Brooke was a distinguished and much-respected tragedian, and his professional brethren and admirers have already collected about £800 for the life-boat to be established in his memory, and hope, eventually, to raise the entire cost, amounting to about £600, of the new life-boat station at Lyme Regis, in lieu of the one there at present. We may add that contributions in aid of the G. V. Brooke Life-boat Fund will be gratefully received, amongst others, by Mr. J. W. Anon, Secretary of the Royal Dramatic College, 20, Tavistock-street, Covent-Garden.

THE DAY OF HUMILIATION IN LONDON.—The invitation of the Bishop of London to his diocese to observe Tuesday (not Friday, as originally fixed) as a day of humiliation on account of the cattle plague met with a very hearty response. There was no general cessation of business, as it was not intended there should be, though in several districts, and even in parts of the City, some shops were closed. But the churches were all opened, and in most of them a variety of services—in some as many as four—were held, in order that all the different classes of the community might have an opportunity of attending at one or other of the different hours. The attendance everywhere and at every service was good. The Bishop of Ely preached at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall; the Dean of Westminster in the Abbey; and at both there were crowded congregations. By a resolution of the House of Commons on Monday the Election Committees did not sit till one o'clock.

ACTION AGAINST AN ACTRESS.—The French Tribunal of Commerce has just given judgment in an action for breach of contract, brought by the director of the Théâtre du Palais Royal against Mlle. Louise Ferraris, under the following circumstances:—The defendant, in 1864, signed an engagement for three years with a progressive salary of 24,000fr., 30,000fr., and 36,000fr., with a forfeit clause of 12,000fr. All went on well till the beginning of last month, when the "Faire aux Grotesques" was put in rehearsal. In the part given to Mlle. Ferraris she had to address the following phrase to one of her fellow-actresses:—"I have done well not to invite you to my ball, for you would not be able to come in a new dress, as you owe your dressmaker 24,000fr." It so happened that the lady thus apostrophised was deeply indebted to her dressmaker, a fact known to some of her companions; she therefore considered the language as a personal insult, and complained to the authors, who at once consented to change the phrase. Notwithstanding this, Mlle. Ferraris persisted in giving the original words at every rehearsal, and ultimately refused to play the part. After this breach of contract the director took the present proceedings to get her engagement cancelled, and demanded 12,000fr. damages. Before the case came on for trial, however, she made an offer to play the part as altered, but the director declined to accept it, and she then commenced a cross action to recover 12,000fr. After hearing counsel, the tribunal cancelled the engagement, rejected Mlle. Ferraris's demand, and condemned her to pay the director 2000fr. damages, with all costs.

NAZARETH.

We have already published Engravings and accompanying descriptions of some of those localities of the Holy Land which are associated with the sublimest and most touching incidents of the Sacred History. Indeed, as a traveller, to whom we have been already largely indebted, observes, there is one remarkable peculiarity in the Bible, as a revelation of God's will to man—or rather of the many books which make up the one which we call the Bible—that it is a record of historical events extending over thousands of years, all of which occurred in many different places, but situated within a very small territory. Accordingly, there is hardly a hill or valley, stream or fountain, town or village, in Palestine which has not been the home of some person or the scene of some event known and familiar to the Church of Christ. Every spot is consecrated by holy associations. And so, in journeying through the land, we almost every hour visit some sacred locality. Thus, for example, in one day's ride south from Jerusalem, after leaving the city by the old Jewish tower at the Gate of Jaffa, we cross the plain of Rephadim, pass close to the tomb of Rachel, visit Bethlehem, drink at the Pool of Solomon, stand on the Plain of Mamre and by the well of Abraham, wind among the vineyards of Eschol, and end with Hebron.

Our last description was devoted to Bethlehem and to that sacred precinct which has been less honoured by the disputes that have agitated the sectaries as to their rights of proprietorship than by the real historical and tender interest which must attach to it in the minds of pious visitors. Like most of the holy places, it is altogether disappointing to those who go prepared to see a spot held in the deep regard of the Christian Church; and the disputes which have been raging concerning this locality, as well as that of the Holy Sepulchre, have not been directed towards preserving either the beauty or completeness of the place itself.

Our Engravings this week represent the present aspect of a spot equally associated with the Divine story and of deep interest to the traveller who finds himself within its walls.

Of all the routes in the Holy Land the most peculiar is that from Jerusalem to Nazareth, since it intersects the whole country which was the scene of the scripture history. No part of Palestine, however, presents a more impressive aspect of desolate grandeur than these mountainous districts of Samaria and Galilee. In the three days' journey from Jerusalem to Nazareth the whole grand Bible panorama may be said to be unrolled, from the pit into which the son of Jacob was lowered by his brethren, to Nain, where the son of the widow was restored to her by the Divine Healer. Thence crossing the plain and ascending the hills of Galilee, which rise abruptly from it, the traveller descends the white houses of the town, which lies in a sort of green nest or basin in these secluded hills, and is called the White City, or the Flower of Galilee. A journey through modern Nazareth, however, must be made along narrow, crowded bazars and filthy lanes, till on the further outskirts are seen the trees of a venerable olive-grove, where the tents are pitched.

Of course there are rival claimants to the Holy Place of the Annunciation—the Greeks holding that it is in their church, at one end of the town, and the Latins that it is in theirs, at the other end; while in the Franciscan convent the site of the Virgin's House is pointed out, the house itself having, according to the legend, been conveyed by angels to Loreto; since which time, and the building having been sanctioned by a Papal bull in 1518, it has been visited by crowds of pilgrims at the latter place. The outskirts of the town are extremely beautiful with pomegranates, olive-trees, and vines shading them by their graceful but rather sombre foliage. The population consists of about 3000 souls; and, though it is poverty-stricken and wretched enough in many respects, its traditions render it conspicuous in the Holy Land. Besides the convent and churches there are a khan and a mosque. At a short distance from the town a chapel is raised on the spot said to have been occupied by the workshop of Joseph, and the fountain of the Virgin is about



WOMEN OF NAZARETH AT THE WELL OF THE VIRGIN.

500 paces distant, where in former times a church dedicated to the Angel Gabriel was erected. The source of the fountain is inclosed in the Greek convent.

The table of Christ, at which it is said Our Lord often sat with his disciples, is exhibited in the Franciscan Convent. Our Engravings represent the general view of the city, the well or fountain of the Virgin, and the present dress of the regular inhabitants, who have adopted those modifications of dress which more than anything else detract from the identity of the place with our impressions of the scripture history, since the combination of Greek and Armenian garments differ essentially from the more dignified simplicity of the older costume.

A "DRAG-HUNT."

EVERYBODY has heard of the "dodge" of metaphorically "dragging a red herring across the scent" for the purpose of diverting people from a particular pursuit and leading them off into false "tracks." But it seems that the practice is adopted in Ireland, and perhaps elsewhere as well, of dragging a red herring along a particular line of country in order to get up a mock chase when reynard or other subjects of sport cannot be got to rise. A hunt of this description, which is portrayed in our Engraving, took place a few days ago in the county of Dublin, and of which we borrow a description from our contemporary the *Irish Times*, which says:—

"A drag-hunt in the county of Dublin is an event so rare and so novel that it is no wonder it should excite a very large amount of interest. It was expected to produce considerable sport, and those who drove to Ashbourne on the occasion were by no means disappointed. The day was clear, and the sun shone brightly; but there was a bitter wind from the north, and all the wrappers and overcoats of the sight-seers were called into requisition. Punchestown, as everyone who knows anything of steeple-chasing in Ireland is aware, is the most largely attended meeting of the year; and, therefore, to compare the appearance of the Ashbourne road to that between Naas and Salins on a fine April

caused considerable speculation, although from the immense number of entries the issue was more than doubtful.

"The idea of having a drag-hunt during the present season originated, some weeks ago, with some of the best-known gentlemen who follow the Ward Hounds. The subscription, though small in comparison with what may be expected in future years, enabled the committee to award £60 to the first horse, £20 to the second, and £10 to the third; and an additional prize of £25 to the first horse carrying 15 st. Out of the extraordinary number of sixty-six entries, no fewer than twelve horses carried this top weight. The arrangements made by the stewards were admirable. A fine course of nearly four miles was chosen, commencing at the eight-mile stone on the Ashbourne road and terminating at the Fairyhouse, which commanded a fine view of the finish of the race. As this was the first drag-hunt held under the auspices of the gentlemen of the Ward Hunt, it would have been rather injudicious that all the fences should be up to the standard of Punchestown. But there were some very difficult leaps, and not a few of the starters came to grief before they had completed the first mile. The course was nearly straight, and there were some capital adjacent stand-points, from which the spectators saw the running to great advantage. The hounds selected for the purpose of the hunt were five couple of Dr. Gwydir's (county of Longford) harriers; but, owing, perhaps, to the state of the weather, which prevented a good scent, and to the shortness of the start, they were overridden long before the Fairyhouse was reached. Out of the total of sixty-six entries, the extraordinary number of fifty-nine started.

"Once arrived at Ashbourne the scene was highly pleasant and animated, and the cold wind was not much regarded. One or two showers of sleet, which blew away rapidly, by no means contributed to comfort; but as the day wore on the breeze lost something of its keenness, and the glow of sunshine became warmer. The landscape is not picturesque, but it is by no means uninteresting. A great stretch of undulating country intersected by many hedgerows, and patched with changing lights and shades, as the heavy low clouds swept overhead; a background of distant

Dublin mountains, whose summits were white with snow; and far away dark patches of woods, which formed a sort of framework to the picture, form the only features of the prospect. But abundance of life and bustle were seen in the vicinity of the starting-point. Along the by-roads cars jostled, horsemen trotted briskly, drags and carriages lumbered through the muddy ruts, and though very few "spills" occurred, there were other diverting incidents in abundance. Through the narrow lanes vehicles rushed helter-skelter for the Fairyhouse, and to find a place from which the course might be advantageously seen was a problem difficult enough to keep one's ingenuity upon the stretch. At length, after about three miles of ugly road winding from the seven-mile stone, between bare hedges and scattered hamlets, the line of cars stopped suddenly, and by intuition most of the excursionists discovered that the correct point had been reached. Then there



NAZARENE COSTUMES.

A D R A G - H U N T I N I R E L A N D.

were a hurried march through one or two other lanes, a rapid scramble through fences and over ditches, in which not a few pedestrians unaccustomed to so still a country met with mishaps, and a run up the side of the rising ground at Ballybrack, which in the teeth of so keen a northerly blast bears a severe test for stamina and endurance. Reaching the highest fence on Mr. Morrin's farm the view opened. About a mile to the west the fields of the Fairyhouse were black with spectators, a line of red flags pointed out the direction of the course towards the finish; and, looking back towards the starting-point, horses were seen moving like black dots over the ground. Half-past two arrived, and everyone stood on tiptoe and strained the eyes towards Ashbourne, but for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour there was no sign of the red coats. Then the cry of the hounds was heard at a distance, and presently a man was seen running through the field trailing something covered up in canvas at the end of a long string. These were the herrings; but where were the hounds? The scarlet coats were seen in less than a minute, and a long string of riders descended a little eminence about half a mile away, led by ten lengths or so by some one on a chestnut horse. The crowd scattered away, and about forty horses, separated by long intervals, crossed Morrin's field at a pace by no means rapid. The ditch brought one or two to grief; but the chestnut was still leading, and his rider took matters exceedingly cool, as he well might, for his seemed about the freshest and the best horse in the field. At length two or three couple of hounds, completely puzzled, showed among the last horses; but by this time the hunt was over and the prizes were won. The pace was at no place very quick; but the ground was rather heavy, and many of the riders seemed doubtful of the proper course to take. Mr. Barrington, who rode his chestnut horse Charley, and who kept the lead from almost the beginning to the close, showed great skill and judgment, and sustained his reputation as one of the best horsemen in the Ward Hunt; and Mr. Morrin gained a very creditable second place, after a vigorous effort to overtake the leader. Amongst the heavy weights Mr. Mark Leonard distinguished himself by gaining the prize, which he won in capital style. After the race the weather became warmer, and there was no end of merriment amongst the numerous parties assembled at Fairyhouse. Not a few of those who were mounted amused themselves by trying the leaps, and the spectators laughed heartily at occasional misadventures. About five o'clock the crowd began to thin, and by six the long line of vehicles was turned towards Dublin."



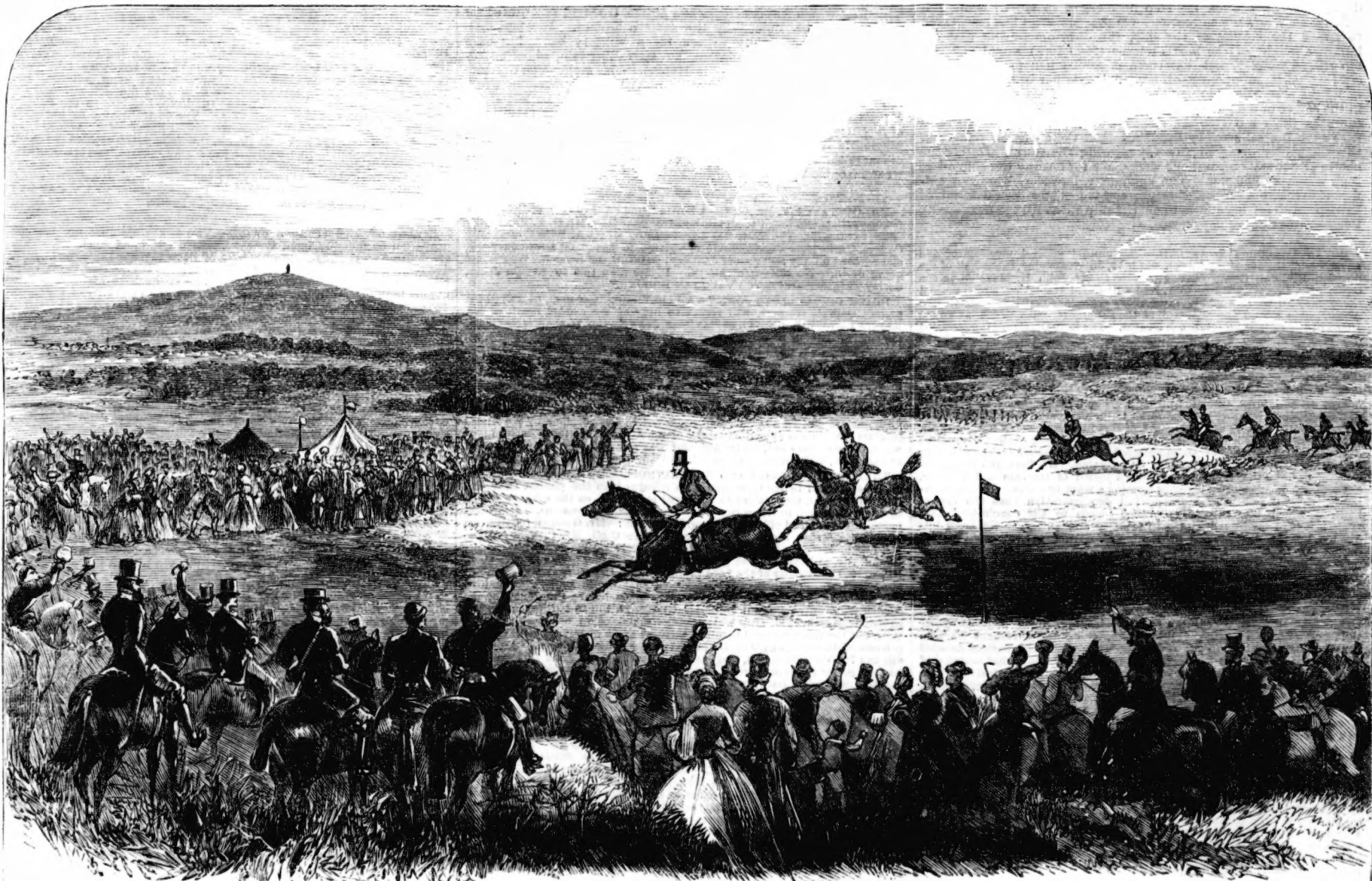
THE DRAG.

THE IRON-CLAD SHIP NORTHUMBERLAND.

On Saturday an unsuccessful attempt was made to launch one of the finest of the many fine iron-built and armour-plated ships of the British Navy. The Northumberland is one of a triad of monster ships known amongst naval men as the Minotaur class, from that vessel being the first completed. The third ship of the class is the Agincourt, recently launched at Birkenhead. The standard of excellence in naval architecture has altered so continually of late years, to keep pace with the improvements in heavy guns, that the Minotaur class of ships has already been superseded by new types presenting greater powers of resistance to the tremendous artillery that will alone find a place in future contests for maritime supremacy. The existence of our iron fleet is so recent that most persons will remember that our first conception of what the future ship of war should be was realised in the Warrior, the Black Prince, and the Achilles. Without going too much into detail, it may be stated that these vessels have a tonnage something over 6000, a length of 380 ft., engines of 1250-horse power, and defensive armour over a portion only of the broadside of 4½-in. iron plate on backing of 18 in. of teak. The Minotaur class was next constructed, to embody what was then considered improvements in construction. They are 600 or 700 tons larger than the

The Minotaur was launched about a year ago from the works of the Thames Ship-building Company. The Agincourt was more recently launched at Birkenhead, and proved herself on trial to be by far the fastest war vessel afloat. The completion of the Northumberland has been somewhat delayed, from causes to which it is not necessary here to advert; but that delay has been attended with some public advantage, for the Admiralty have from time to time been able to introduce improvements in the construction which will add considerably to the defensive qualities of the ship and immensely to the comfort and convenience of the crew. A detailed account of the principle of construction would demonstrate that the Northumberland and her sister ships are, by the cellular system of construction, made as strong as girders, plates, rivets, and angle irons can make them, and at the same time so subdivided into water-tight compartments that they might be riddled with shot without any fear of destroying their powers of flotation. The main modification in the construction of the Minotaur is an arrangement of the armour-plates suggested by the present constructor of the navy. The plates taper in thickness as they approach the bow and stern, and cover the broadside of the ship in varying breadths. For a space of 100 ft. at the bow the armour-plating consists of a strip at the water-line only 10 ft. wide. For a similar length at the stern

Warrior class, have engines of 1350-horse power, 20 ft. or 30 ft. greater length, and a difference in the principle of their defensive panoply which subsequent experience has shown to be of doubtful utility. Instead of having 4½-in. plates on 18 in. of teak backing, the ships of this class are partially plated with 5½-in. armour, backed by 9 in. of teak. The stern test of actual experiment at Shoeburyness demonstrated that this system of armour-plating offered much less resistance to the impact of heavy projectiles than what may be termed the Warrior system, and that even continued pounding at short ranges with 68-lb. shot was sufficient to destroy a ship so protected. The inference which, apparently, might fairly be drawn from this fact is that the Minotaur class of ships, costly as they are, are utterly useless for the purposes of future naval warfare. This view, indeed, has been broadly enunciated by many whose knowledge of the subject is superficial. Two unquestionable qualities, however, possessed by the Minotaur class may serve to convince the British taxpayer that the immense amount spent on these noble ships is not altogether money thrown away. They are, and are likely for many years to remain, the fastest ships of war possessed by any naval Power in the world, while their immense tonnage will enable them to carry the heaviest artillery that can be constructed.



THE HUNT.

the strip of armour is only 8 ft. wide. For a length of 200 ft. amidships the whole side is covered with plates from 6½ ft. below the water-line up to the main-deck 16 ft. above it. This midship section of 200 ft. is inclosed by transverse bulkheads plated with ½-in. iron, thus shutting off the battery of guns from the less strongly defended portions of the ship. Above the foremost transverse bulkheads, on the spar-deck, is a semicircular iron shield to cover two heavy bow-chaser guns. At present the proposed armament of the Northumberland is four 12-ton 9-in. rifled guns and nine 8-in. rifled guns on the main-deck, and four 6-ton rifled guns on the upper deck. Some of these, however, are destined at no distant date to give place to the 20-ton gun that experience has shown can be made and worked on board vessels of much less stability than ships of the Minotaur class. There is a two-storied deck-tower, as strong as iron and wood can make it, the upper part of which is intended for the officers in command of the ship, and the lower for riflemen, who would give a good account of any boarders who succeeded in getting a footing on the ample deck. The poop and topgallant fore-castle, which has been added since the ship was originally designed, will add greatly to the comfort of the crew, and qualify the ship for carrying an admiral and his staff.

The occasion of the launch was one of great interest. It was honoured by the presence of Royalty, in the person of the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred, who came on board one of the Watermen steamers, accompanied by the Prince of Hohenlohe. The yard was crowded with spectators. At the bows of the huge ship a gallery had been constructed for the accommodation of a large number of invited guests, amongst whom were comprised the élite of the nobility, of the legislature, and of men distinguished for their attainments in art and science. Fair ladies innumerable came to add the charm of their presence to one of the few occasions on which their graceful ministrations are brought into requisition. Naval officers, both British and foreign, mustered in great force to witness an event in which they, of course, felt a special interest. On the bosom of the Thames craft of every description, laden with anxious spectators, clustered in what appeared to be dangerous proximity to the course which the huge ship would have to take when she glided into the stream. The advent of the Prince and his party was made the occasion of a very flattering ovation from the large number of persons both afloat and ashore. On landing, the Prince and his party were received by Captain Sir J. D. Hay, R.N., the chairman of the company and the directors, and conducted over the ship, with the appearance and finish of which they expressed great satisfaction. They then took their place at the bows of the ship, where Countess Percy, who most appropriately stood sponsor for the good ship Northumberland, stood ready to perform her pleasing duty. At half-past two o'clock the signal was given, the dogshores were released, and a hundred vigorous arms plied their hammers to knock away the few remaining obstacles to the ship's start. Some little delay occurred before a slight movement in the huge bulk of the ship warranted her ladyship in dashing the garlanded bottle against the slowly receding bows. The crowd cheered vigorously, bands played national airs, gentlemen waved their hats, and ladies their handkerchiefs, as the ship slid slowly, very slowly, down the ways. So sluggish, indeed, was the movement, and so marked the absence of that gradually increasing speed accompanying a successful launch, that comment was excited amongst the uninitiated spectators, while men of experience suspected something wrong before the result justified their anticipations. After sliding slowly for a distance of about 100 ft., a dense smoke rose from beneath the vessel, telling of some undue friction, and almost immediately the motion became slower and slower, and at last ceased altogether. Great was the disappointment felt at so unsatisfactory a termination of what at the outset had promised so well. Some tugs that ought to have kept a strain on the ship all the time while going down the ways, now began to paddle away vigorously, and to suffocate every one with smoke, but without moving the ship the fraction of an inch. A few minutes sufficed to show that all chance of a launch that day was gone. Fortunately, the ship remained upright, and, with a little temporary shoring, can be kept so until effectual means are taken to get her afloat. Various opinions were advanced by the able engineers and scientific men who were present with regard to the cause of the stoppage. Some were of opinion that the inclination of the ways was not sufficient, though it was stated that their gradient is the same as those down which the Warrior glided so proudly on her entrance into life; others that the ways were not properly greased. Others said that some dredging work had been imperfectly done, so as to partially cover the ways with ballast. Others again laid the whole blame on the tugs for not doing their duty when the ship first began to move; while still another view, and the correct one, was that measures had been taken to retard the motion of the ship, the directors fearing that the immense weight of the moving mass (9200 tons) would generate too great a velocity, and that those measures had proved too successful. A large number of invited guests partook of luncheon, under the presidency of the gallant chairman of the company, who, in the course of his post-prandial observations, announced the latter cause as the reason for the stoppage of the ship, and at the same time gave the satisfactory assurance that there was no danger of this temporary delay in any way injuring the vessel. During the course of Sunday preparations were made for getting the ship off at high water, at 3.30 p.m. The appliances, however, were not sufficient to secure a successful result, and it has now been determined to suspend all further efforts to get the ship afloat till the next spring tides—a week or ten days hence.

ROYAL CALEDONIAN ASYLUM.—The annual general meeting of the governors of the above institution was held, on Wednesday, in the hall of the Scottish Hospital, Crane-court, Fleet-street.—Sir John H. Maxwell in the chair. Mr. Daniell, the secretary, read a financial statement, which showed the society to be in a highly satisfactory pecuniary position. Sir George Abercrombie moved the adoption of the statement, with which, as an old friend of the society, he felt much pleased. The Rev. Dr. Cumming seconded the resolution, also congratulating the meeting on the position of the society. The motion was adopted. A vote of thanks was then passed to the Duke of Buccleuch for the great interest he had displayed in the welfare of the society; and after the termination of the usual routine business, the meeting concluded with the usual compliment to the chairman.

THE DECLENSION OF RINDERPEST.—The announcement that rinderpest is lessening in severity, as exhibited in the number of attacks and deaths, is unquestionably a fact. The cause of this improvement is not, however, well understood. It is supposed to be due to the working of the Government measures which have recently been enforced. In the *Medical Times and Gazette* of Saturday last the whole matter is investigated. Dr. Farr, the Registrar-General, declares that all epidemics have a period of increase and decrease, and a period of subsidence, together forming a wave or curve. He has ascertained that "it admits of mathematical demonstration that the law of increase which has hitherto prevailed 'leads to the conclusion' that rinderpest will speedily diminish in severity and extent." He bases this opinion upon the behaviour of rinderpest during the nine weeks preceding the 1st of January, 1866. It appears that "the rate of increase goes on rapidly decreasing until the ratio itself is decreasing." The greatest heights would appear to be reached about the beginning of March. The article in the *Medical Times* contains an illustration representing two curves, the one framed according to the calculations of Dr. Farr and the other the returns of the Privy Council, the slight difference of the element of back cases, the weekly returns varying considerably according to the regularity with which the various detailed accounts of attacks are received. It appears that "diminished activity of the zymotic matter and augmented power of resistance in the survivors," are the facts to which the subsidence of all epidemics is due. The exhaustion of virulence of any poison is chiefly caused by transmission through several animals. Dr. Farr has, moreover, calculated the death-rate of rinderpest when left to take its own course. He finds the total recovery-rate to be 182 per cent, and moreover that, whereas the recoveries were only about 25 per cent or so originally, in January they were 15, and up to March 3 per cent, which shows a loss of power by the poison, because there is little reason to think that the resistance of animals now living is greater than that exhibited by animals some months since. It appears also that, taking into consideration unusual influences which have recently arisen, such as the "stamping out" system and the total stoppage of traffic, the rinderpest will subside more quickly than the first calculations of Dr. Farr suggested. The subsidence then of rinderpest is to be looked for as a necessary result. It is explicable by the law which rules all epidemics, and cannot be ascribed in any great degree to any preventive measures that have only recently come into operation.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. GYE'S programme is now before the public. The company engaged is, in the main, that of last season. The only singer occupying a very prominent position who has left the theatre is Herr Wachtel. He will be replaced as Vasco di Gama, in "L'Africaine," by Signor Naudin, the original representative of the part. The services, too, have been secured of a new tenor, Signor Nicolini, who during the past winter sang with great success at the Italian Opera of Paris.

Signor Naudin, besides the character of Vasco di Gama, will undertake those of Robert, in "Robert le Diable," and of Danilowitz, in "L'Etoile du Nord." Signor Nicolini will appear as Fra Diavolo, in the opera of that name, and as Arturo, in "I Puritani."

Mario is, of course, re-engaged. He will not be heard this season in any new work; he will resume his old part of Otavio, in "Don Giovanni." Signor Brignoli also belongs to the company, which includes this year four principal tenors, or, if Signor Neri-Baraldi be counted, five.

But the great strength of the troop lies in the prima-donna department. The two Patis (Mdlle. Adelina and Mdlle. Carlotta), Mdlle. Pauline Lucra, Mdlle. Desirée-Artot, and Mdlle. Fricki may first be mentioned; but we are also to be introduced to a new light soprano, Mdlle. Aglaja Orgeni; a new "robust" soprano, Mdlle. Maria Vilda; and a new mezzo-soprano, Mdlle. Fanny Deconet. Three important parts are assigned to Mdlle. Maria Vilda, from whom great things are evidently expected—those of Norma, Donna Anna and Alice, in "Robert le Diable." Mdlle. Orgeni will make her début as Violetta, in "La Traviata;" Mdlle. Deconet will come before the public as Fides, in "Le Prophète." We may add that Mdlle. Deconet is from the Royal Theatre at Hanover; Mdlle. Orgeni and Mdlle. Vilda from the Royal Opera House, Berlin.

For the mezzo-soprano and contralto parts, taken last season by Mdlle. Honoré, and for many seasons before by Mdlle. Nantier-Didice, two new singers have been engaged—Mdlle. Biancolini, from the San Carlo Theatre at Naples, and Mdlle. Morensi, from the Royal Opera at Copenhagen. Mdlle. Morensi will appear as Urbano, in "Les Huguenots;" Mdlle. Biancolini as the Goatherd, in "Dinorah."

A formidable list of baritones and basses comprises the names of Faure, Ronconi, and Graziani; Attiri, Tagliacchi, Schmid, and Ciampi. To Faure are allotted his old parts of Don Giovanni; of Hoel, in "Dinorah;" and that of Nelusko, created by M. Faure, will be retained by Signor Graziani, its original representative in London.

The chief novelties of the coming season will be Donizetti's "Dom Sebastiano" and Ricci's "Crispino e la Comare."

One of the greatest triumphs of the season will undoubtedly be the performance of "The Marriage of Figaro," with Mdlle. Adelina Patti as Susan, Mdlle. Artot as the Countess, and Mdlle. Pauline Lucra as Cherubino.

"Fra Diavolo" is really to be revived, but not with Mario in the principal part. The new tenor, Nicolini, will be the Fra Diavolo; Mdlle. Pauline Lucra the Zerlina.

Mdlle. Adelina Patti will impersonate, for the first time, Caterina, in "L'Etoile du Nord," and Elvira, in the "Puritani."

Besides performing, for the first time, the part of Zerlina, in "Fra Diavolo," and of Cherubino, in "Le Nozze di Figaro," Mdlle. Pauline Lucra will undertake that of Leonora, in "La Favorita."

Mdlle. Carlotta Patti will make her first appearance on the stage in England as Margherita, in "Les Huguenots," and as Isabel, in "Robert le Diable."

The programme of the Royal Italian Opera for the season of 1866 leads us to anticipate a series of very admirable performances.

The Monday Popular concert of last Saturday, at St. James's Hall, was full of interest and variety. It included a symphony, an overture, two pianoforte pieces—one in the classical and the other in the bravura style (both entrusted to Mdlle. Arabella Goddard), an operatic finale, and several solo airs from operas and oratorios. The symphony was the one by Haydn, in B flat, known as "La Reine de France." It is full of vigour and as fresh as though it were a thing of yesterday. It was capably played, and was much applauded, especially the popular movement—the air with variations—in E flat. Mdlle. Goddard's first piece was Beethoven's choral fantasia, a work which delights all who hear it. It is a world of fancy, and, if its manifold beauties are not appreciated by everyone, at least no one can fail to be charmed by the lovely melody which pervades it, and which Mdlle. Arabella Goddard plays with all possible feeling and grace. On Saturday, at the conclusion of the fantasia, the pianist was much applauded and recalled. She was afterwards equally but not more successful in Thalberg's "Last Rose of Summer," which was encored, when Mdlle. Goddard substituted for it "Home, sweet Home," by the same composer. Mendelssohn's overture in C, originally written for a military band, has been arranged for the full orchestra, by Herr Eberwein, whose instrumentation, however, is not all in Mendelssohn's style. The overture was well played, but if it cannot be played as Mendelssohn wrote it, or as Mendelssohn might have written it, it should be left alone. Mr. Patey gave Mendelssohn's "I am a roamer," the German *largo al factotum*, with great spirit; and Mdlle. Liebhart, who had been previously heard in the "Inflammatus," from the "Stabat Mater," did more than justice to one of the innumerable bird-songs by which we are troubled just now.

MR. GUSTAVUS V. BROOKE.—A bottle found on the beach at Brighton a few days since was found to contain a sad message from Mr. G. V. Brooke, the actor, to his wife. The bottle was discovered by Mr. C. A. Elliott, of Trinity College, Cambridge. The message is written in pencil on a torn envelope, and reads as follows:—"11th of January, on board the London. We are just going down. No chance of a ship. Please give this to Avonia Jones, Surrey Theatre.—GUSTAVUS VAUGHAN BROOKE."

DEATH OF "COLLEGE JOHN."—All old Westminster men, as well as the present Queen's scholars, will regret to hear of the sudden death of Mr. Edward Lloyd, better known as "College John," who is another victim of the reckless driving of cabs. Mr. Lloyd was crossing Abingdon-street, on Saturday evening, when he was run over by a cab, and was taken to Westminster Hospital, where, though every attention was paid to him, he gradually sank, and died, without having recovered consciousness since the accident. "College John" was the servant of the Queen's scholars, as he had been the servant of the King's scholars, and had been connected with Westminster School for half a century. His father held the same appointment, and it was by a round robin addressed to Dean Ireland by the King's scholars that he was appointed sacrist of the Abbey. The late Edward Lloyd was sixty-one years old, we believe, and was a faithful servant of the Dean and Chapter, and generally respected.

THEATRICAL LICENSES AND REGULATIONS.—The Parliamentary Committee appointed by the Government to inquire into the present theatrical licensing system, preparatory to improved legislation on the subject, sat on Monday afternoon, in Room No. 17 of the House of Commons. The Committee was composed of the following gentlemen:—Mr. Goschen (chairman), Lord Ernest Bruce, Sir A. Buller, Lord Eustace Cecil, Mr. Clay, Mr. Clive, Mr. Locke, Mr. Du Cane, Mr. T. J. Miller, Mr. Lusk, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Powell, Mr. Selwyn, Colonel Sturt, and Mr. Walpole. The Hon. S. C. B. Ponsonby, Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Department, was examined at some length, and in his evidence stated that Sir E. Buller's Committee was appointed in consequence of complaints made by the proprietors of the smaller theatres. He (Sir E. Buller) introduced a bill in Parliament on the subject in March, 1853, after which things remained in a *quiescent* state for some time, but the managers of the minor theatres again quarrelled with the proprietors of the music-halls as to the privileges of those places. After the 6th and 7th Victoria passed, magistrates, as well as the Lord Chamberlain, had the power to grant licenses. At the present time there were twenty-five theatres in London, but he was not aware of the number of music-halls, nor had the Lord Chamberlain any knowledge of the number of them. Mr. Locke asked the witness whether he was aware of the fact that a gin-barrel, beer-pumps, and spirits were kept in nearly all the theatres, and taken round to persons in the pit by women. Mr. Ponsonby replied in the affirmative. He did not think any of Shakespeare's plays, or any ballets or dances, if performed in music-halls, would elevate the ideas of those present. He thought the drama should be kept apart from music-halls. He had been to the Alhambra, and certainly the audience was not over respectable, but he saw nothing improper there. The Lord Chamberlain had the power of withdrawing licenses for dancing, music, &c., if he found anything improper. In reply to Mr. Goschen, Mr. Ponsonby said he thought the power of granting or refusing licenses to theatres and music-halls should be vested in one person. Replying to Mr. Powell, the witness said that the police always reported anything wrong, and the newspapers were closely watched for anything requiring investigation.

ST. PANCRAS WORKHOUSE.

FOR some days reports have been current that a pauper child in St. Pancras Workhouse had been laid out for burial some hours before its death; and, as the reports appeared to be true, Dr. Lankester, the Coroner, held an inquest on the body, on Tuesday. The child was illegitimate, and was the daughter of a woman who is undergoing imprisonment for deserting it. The evidence of Dr. Ronger, physician of University College, was that death was caused from want of power to digest the food, or, in other words, by "inanition from want of absorbing power." In answer to a juror he said, "I cannot say what caused the want of power to digest. If it had been starved for a week and then fed it would have produced the symptoms I saw. There was nothing in the post-mortem examination to show that the child was wilfully neglected. It was in such a wretched condition that it would have died in any case; but laying it aside would hasten its death. The principal evidence to the premature laying out was given by the gentleman who made the charge, Mr. James I. Hillocks, who said, 'I am the evangelist of the Congregational Church in Tolmer-square. I am in the frequent habit of visiting St. Pancras Workhouse. I was there last Thursday between two and three o'clock. I had occasion to look after a woman in the infirmary, and I was told she was near the infants' nursery. I went to inquire, and a woman, who, I believe, is named Roberts, said to me, 'Please, Sir, come and see this dead child.' She said she 'never saw the like of it in her life.' I went to the place where the child was lying. It was at the foot of one of the beds near the fire. She told me it had been laid out. I am not exactly sure whether she said 'for three hours' or 'for hours.' I saw the child lying, and a bandage wrapped round it binding the chin and head together. I looked for some time, and then said, 'The child is alive.' I saw a slight motion indicated, and immediately I saw that I lifted the little gown that was on it, and as I did that there was more motion with the mouth. I lifted up the gown to see if there was any motion in the chest. There was a motion in the chest. I told the nurse the child was alive, and told her to go for the doctor. I asked her to undo the bandage, and she said she had loosened it slightly, and the child had moved that way for hours. I asked her then to send for the doctor. She said she could not do that, for she had to tell the lady superintendent, and that the lady superintendent had to tell the doctor. I said, 'Go and tell her now.' She answered, she had been there an hour ago. I said, in an astonished manner, 'What! an hour ago, and not come yet?' I urged her again to go. 'I cannot go now,' said she, 'she has a party.' I immediately became rather warm, and said, 'Well, party or no party, I must and I will bring her, or I will bring the doctor.' I went and asked the people outside where her room was, and they showed me a room where 'midwife' was written on the door and a name. I do not know what the name was, but I think it commenced with L. S. A person came to the door, and I asked her if she was the superintendent? She said she was. I explained matters to her, and she seemed—I could not say whether angry or confused, but she was one of the two. The words I said were, 'Do you know of that child?' and she said, 'What child?' at first; and then I informed her that it was a child that had been laid out for some time. She did not say anything to that. She did not positively say whether she knew about it or not. She was just going to shut her door and go in when I said, 'I must go for the doctor.' Then she stopped me and said she would go with me to the nursery. She went there. When I entered with her I found that the bandage was not only off, but that the child was breathing regularly." The lady superintendent afterwards tried to persuade the witness that the child had not been laid out, but there was sufficient evidence to prove the point. The inquest was adjourned. A meeting of the guardians was also held on Tuesday in consequence of the rumours which had prevailed, and the inquiry was attended by Mr. Farnall, who had been directed to investigate the matter. The main facts, as detailed above, were proved, and the lady superintendent, as she was called, was suspended during the investigation.

The inquiry was resumed on Wednesday. Mr. William Frederick Butt, the senior resident medical officer of the workhouse, was called. He described his duties, as printed, and among them was an order that he should visit the infant nursery three times a week. He saw this child on the Monday, and it died on the Thursday; and he admitted that he was not in the nursery between Monday and Thursday. He was not called to the child when it was dying, and he knew nothing about its death until afterwards. Mr. Farnall asked the witness how he carried out his duties of visiting the nursery three times a week; and he replied he believed it was visited the requisite number of times either by himself or his junior officer; but further inquiry proved that the nursery was not visited at all by either of the medical officers from the Monday till the Saturday of last week. The witness further stated that the child, when seen by him, was ordered an ounce of wine a day from Monday, it appearing ill, but apparently labouring under no active disease. On Mr. Farnall inquiring for the medical officer's book to show this, it turned out that no such book was kept, as was ordered by the Poor-Law Board, to show these facts; and it was stated that the order-book would show that wine was ordered for this child. The order-book was brought, but the order was not in it, and then it was said that the order was given verbally. The witness further stated that he had ordered the child to have a pint of milk, to be given it daily, in addition to its being suckled, and this order was also given verbally. Margaret Sanson, the person who has been called the "lady superintendent," but whose position was that of midwife and superintendent, was then called. She stated that she had the care of the lying-in wards and nursery, in all about 150 people generally, and she had no paid nurse to assist her. She had to leave the administering of wine to the children to a pauper nurse, so she could not say whether or not this child got the wine ordered it. With respect to the scene of Thursday described by Mr. Hillocks, she said that a few minutes before four o'clock the pauper nurse of the nursery had been with her, and had spoken about "poor little Adams," who, she said, was "not gone yet." Soon after Mr. Hillocks came and spoke warmly and vehemently about "that child laid out for dead," and which he told her was alive. She went with him to the nursery, and saw the child, which was alive, but it was not bandaged up as described by Mr. Hillocks. She allowed, in cross-examination by Mr. Hillocks, that she had upbraided the nurse for putting the bandage on, for it had been on, and told her it might happen to one of her own children, and that she had given directions not to bandage any more children. She allowed that she ought to have called the doctor, but did not, and said she was labouring under the impression that the doctor had been in the ward to attend to a woman he had promised to see. The doctor denied he had made such a promise. Margaret Edmunds, the pauper nurse; Mary Ann Rix, an inmate of the nursery; and Mary Smith, the woman who suckled the child, were then examined, but no material facts were elicited, and the Commissioner declared the case closed. A vote of thanks was passed to the Commissioner, and the proceedings terminated; the guardians then gathered round Mr. Hillocks, and severely censured him for appealing to the Poor-Law Board, and for allowing the matter to become public.

RIVALS OF THE SIAMESE TWINS.—Two negro children are now on exhibition at Raleigh, North Carolina, that excite much curiosity. They are fourteen years of age, and were born of slave parents in Anson County. The connection between these girls is closer than in the Siamese twins, there being more of the physical and mental organs common to each. The connection begins below the neck and terminates at the extremity of the spine. To touch one at any point of her body below the connection sends a sensation to the brain of each; while a touch of either above the connection is felt by that one only. They can talk to different persons at the same time on entirely different subjects; and one can engage in a game of whist while the other reads or sings.

GROSS CASE OF ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER.—On Saturday last Dr. Lankester held an inquest at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, on William Charles Frith, an Independent minister, of 40, Queen Margaret's-grove, Midway Park, Chiswick, who was knocked down and run over under circumstances which involve a charge of manslaughter. John Harriman, an omnibus-driver, of 12, Charlotte-cottages, Islington, stated that on Sunday evening, shortly after ten, he was driving down Pontonville-hill, and when opposite the church saw a gentleman about twenty yards ahead crossing the road slowly. A moment afterwards a cart, containing three or four men, dashed past witness between the kerb and "bus at a furious pace, ran against Mr. Frith, knocked him down, and went over him. As soon as the driver of the cart saw what he had done he lashed the horse into a more furious pace still, and escaped. The medical evidence showed that deceased was received at the Royal Free Hospital on Sunday evening with his skull completely fractured. He died very shortly afterwards. The police stated that they had been unable to trace the offenders. The Coroner said that the case was one of the grossest he had met with. The inquest was adjourned.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.—The following correspondence in reference to one of the provisions of the new Reform Bill has taken place:—"A *Chronicle and Mercury* Office, Leicester, March 11, 1866.—Sir, I trust you will excuse my asking you a question relative to your measure of reform, in order that some perplexity respecting one of its details may be removed. In this town a large class of industrious and respectable citizens exists inhabiting houses of £7 yearly rental, but the landlords pay the rates. The rent is usually 3s. per week, exclusive of rates. Is it intended by your measure to give the suffrage to this class; or, do you propose to enfranchise that class only, which, in addition to paying a yearly rental of £7, also pays the rates?—If, the latter be the case, the proposed Reform Bill will exclude a large class who are under the impression that the measure is designed to enfranchise them, and will, I fear, create considerable disappointment in this and other large towns. Having attended a meeting of the Parliamentary Reform Association in this town last evening, at which doubts were expressed, and remained unsolved, respecting this subject, I have ventured to ask for direct information in the hope that thus all obscurity in relation to it may be dispelled.—I am, &c., JAMES THOMPSON (Editor).—The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P."—"11, Downing-street, Whitehall, March 16, 1866.—Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 14th inst. the Chancellor of the Exchequer desires me to inform you that the £7 rental required to give a vote to a compound householder must be clear annual value as defined by law—i.e., exclusive of rates.—I am, &c., WM. B. GURDON. To the Editor of the Leicester *Chronicle and Mercury*."

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